First Call for Children

'The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good' — Plan of Action, World Summit for Children

The promise a year later

On 30 September 1990, 71 heads of State and Government — presidents, prime ministers, royal personages — met in New York, with senior representatives of 88 other countries, in history's biggest Summit. They solemnly promised the children of the world a first call on the resources of their nations and, ultimately, of our civilization. They pledged to expand beyond any previously known international dream the chances for life, peace and happiness for our children and, in effect, to end the 'silent emergency' through which, for example, malnourishment deprives 100 million children of normal growth.

A year is too short a time to show tangible progress towards so monumental an undertaking, to introduce what has been called "a genuine social movement for children". Nonetheless, this second issue of *First Call for Children* examines the first proud steps by Governments in this direction.

The issue also includes articles about the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force September 1990, and universal child immunization (UCI) — an achievement being commemorated this October.

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UNICEF/Quito/Lucas Clavijo

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First Call for Children

'The essential needs of children should be given priority in bad times as well as good' — Plan of Action, World Summit for Children

Worldwide action follows Summit

by Frank A. Campbell

The path taken over the years by conference diplomacy has been littered with broken promises, dreams unfulfilled. The response to commitments made at the World Summit for Children a year ago indicates a determination to take a different approach, to choose, as the poet Robert Frost would say, the road "less travelled by".

An optimistic evaluation led UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant to say: "We now see a very realistic prospect that health for all children will be achieved by the year 2000."

Recently, Mr. Grant told *First Call for Children* that most countries were already preparing national plans of action to implement the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. (See page 2.)

The goals set by the 71 heads of Government at the Summit require a major turn around in the life chances for the world's children, all by the year 2000. They are neither impossible nor easy to attain. Plans to achieve them are being drawn up at all levels — from state governments in Mexico to regional secretariats in Asia and Africa and international non-governmental bodies based in Europe.

Waiting for Summit promises to be kept (UNICEF/4702 Z/Francene Keery).

Peru recently became the first country to launch formally its National Plan of Action. But in December, when President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines signed the Summit Declaration, her Government had already prepared a strategy for the first two years.

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Funding agencies help to fulfil promise

by Yvette Collymore

Central to the follow-up to the World Summit for Children is the role of international financial institutions. Such a role was envisaged by the Summit initiators and organizers. Before the Summit, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney urged multilateral aid and lending institutions to consider that "major economic gains could be made in developing countries by expanding investment in basic education and health measures for children".

Ernest Stern, senior vice-president for finance at the World Bank, says the Bank works with others like UNICEF and UNDP in the areas of early health care and primary education.

Barber Conable, the Bank's President, has assured UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar that the Bank's lending in these areas has expanded in recent years and will increase even further.

As of the 1991 fiscal year, which ended 30 June 1991, combined lending for education from the Bank and its International Development Association (IDA) — the provider of soft loans to poorer developing countries — stood at $2.2 billion a year. Five years ago, the figure was only $440 million.

Mr. Conable said the Bank planned to triple primary education loans to 30 to 40 per cent of education lending by fiscal year 1993.

The Bank will help ensure that girls as well as boys receive "the fullest possible opportunities", he declared.

Lending for population, health and nutrition programmes for fiscal year 1991 was $1.6 billion, compared with $54 million in fiscal year 1987. The plan is to increase primary health care lending from 3 per cent to 5 per cent of total Bank lending in the next three to four years.

Mr. Conable said that the Bank was working with borrowing countries to prepare strategies aimed at poverty reduction. The Bank president added, "The approach we are taking is consistent with the goals of the Summit."

For UNDP, "most of the actions identified in the Plan of Action are priority development objectives", according to Administrator William H. Draper III.

The 114 UN resident coordinators have been mandated to work with Governments to stress children's needs.

They have been instructed to promote follow-up at the country level among UN organizations.

UNDP is supporting 250 projects at a cost of $314 million to promote safe motherhood, maternal and child health and family planning.

It is lending support in fighting iodine deficiency and vitamin A deficiency, both of which have a major impact on child survival and development .

UNDP is also supporting the development of children's vaccines and aims to give higher priority to basic education and clean water and sanitation.

Yvette Collymore is an editor with Inter Press Service based in New York.

Mission for all UN family

UNICEF — notwithstanding the 'C' in its name— is but one of many actors engaged in making a reality of the commitment of last year's World Summit for Children to introduce a "first call for children". Most UN bodies — from those concerned with peacemaking to those providing better sanitation — have a role to play in the betterment of the life of the child.

Thus, the Summit effort has represented a partnership from conceptualization to current efforts to implement its mandates.

UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant has thanked "the agencies of the UN family who have widened the horizons of the doable".

The importance of total UN involvement was underscored by the General Assembly resolution urging relevant UN bodies to consider "specific measures, within their competence", to help achieve the Summit goals.

The ease with which the cooperation of various agencies was obtained was partly due to the fact that "the goals and objectives of the World Summit are closely aligned with recent moves within other parts of the international community", as Antoine Bianca, UN Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, pointed out.

The health goals were taken directly from the "WHO/UNICEF common goals for the health of women and children by the year 2000" which had been endorsed by UNICEF and WHO executive boards in April, 1990 and May, 1990 respectively.

UNESCO, for its part, has noted that many of the educational goals endorsed by the Summit were first formulated and agreed to by the Education for All Conference in 1990.

One of the main areas in which UNICEF has been collaborating with other UN entities these past months has been in the development of monitoring systems to measure progress towards the achievement of the Summit goals. These systems are being developed by an inter-agency team which includes UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and the UN Statistical Office.

Summit follow-up is on target — Grant

Mr. Grant

Follow-up to the World Summit for Children is on track although a final balance sheet cannot be issued as yet, said UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant when *First Call for Children* interviewed him on the situation one year after the Summit. During the interview, *Frank Campbell, Interim Editor,* also asked him about the Universal Child Immunization programme and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Following are some of the Executive Director's responses:

Is it too early to evaluate the implementation of the decisions of the World Summit for Children? If not, are you satisfied with the follow-up to date?

It's not too early to evaluate the start of the follow-up. At the moment, the follow-up is on track but it is too early to predict the balance sheet. As you would remember, the Summit was not unusual in announcing high principles such as that of a first call for children. But it was quite unusual in terms of the specificity of the goals of the Summit and its follow-up process. The Summit decided to hold countries accountable from the very first year of the decade by specifying that countries needed to review their plans and programmes so as to create, by the end of this year, the necessary national plans to achieve the goals by the year 2000. They then asked NGOs and international organizations to help. And third, they called for international monitoring of the process and progress on specific indicators. For government leaders to expose themselves to that degree of accountability is unusual.

A majority of countries are preparing their plans of action. We will only know by the end of the year how good they are. We in UNICEF are unique among the agencies of the UN system in that we have a clear set of goals and a general work plan set for the whole decade. And I am satisfied that UNICEF staff have been actively involved.

There are some indications of the implementation of the Summit goals being tied to political time-tables. Is this a desirable development?

I consider it a very healthy development, as exemplified in the Mexican framework. In one of the Mexican states I visited, their plan had a two-year, a four-year and a 10-year framework. Most specific was the plan for the two years before the next election in that state. Then there was the plan for the four years extending to the end of the term of President Carlos Salinas. That was quite specific but less specific than the two-year plan. And the plan for the period from the fourth to the 10th year was more general, recognizing that not only was it far away but there would be different administrations.

UNICEF's challenge is to get countries to keep the promise.

Would you say that the partnership which UNICEF would like to see tackle the problems of children — the partnership with governments, NGOs, the UN and other international bodies — is becoming a reality?

Very much so. One always hopes for ever stronger partnerships, of course. The glass is in the process of filling up but it still has a substantial way to go. At the recent OAU Summit at Abuja, it was very clear that the 36 African heads of State considered UNICEF to be an effective, friendly partner in advancing the well-being of the children. The World Bank, WHO, Inter-American and African Development Banks and UNESCO are some of the international agencies most deeply involved. USAID, SIDA and CIDA are some of the very active bilateral aid agencies. The media are increasingly supportive. The Rotarians, Jaycees, League of Red Cross Societies and Save the Children are among the many active NGOs.

Is there a particular role for youth, even children, in the follow-up?

Very much so. We recognized this in the Maurice Pate Award that was given to Child-to-Child Trust of the United Kingdom this past Executive Board meeting in late April. As you know, they have shown the power of action by children for children in activities such as teaching ORT, mobilizing for immunization, preventing accidents, home gardening — even literacy. The recent national election by six to 12-year-old children in Ecuador demonstrated the role of children in determining national priorities and awareness of the rights and needs of children.

What about NGOs and the media? Are you pleased with their contributions?

The short answer is "yes, but ...". The 'but' is the need to get significantly more contribution out of the media and other NGOs, even though that contribution has increased very significantly over the past five years. We still do not have the media attention that should be given to the obscenity of 40,000 children dying every day. The silent emergency must be made loud — persistently loud. It is a daily holocaust that can and must be avoided.

What about the major international funding agencies?

We are fortunate in that the heads of most international agencies — the World Bank, IMF, Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank — have used strong words in support of special efforts for children. Time alone will tell the effectiveness of these commitments. But I am sure they will have some positive effect as compared to their policies of two years ago.

Do you have any fears that follow-up activities could get bogged down in bureaucratic concerns to the neglect of the substantive exercise of bettering the lot of the world's children?

Of course, that's always possible. UNICEF's challenge is how to get countries, and the heads of State in particular, to keep the promise. To accomplish this, UNICEF, first, must remind the countries and their leaders of their commitments; second, audit and monitor what's actually happening (fortunately, this was legitimized by the Summit itself in paragraph 35 of the Plan of Action); third, help make it more doable, easier for the countries to achieve these objectives. For example, all of the immunization goals would be vastly easier to achieve if we had a one-shot vaccine or even two shots that could replace the whole series that must now be given.

Finally, it is important that UNICEF mobilize support for these programmes and use it most effectively. The range of innovative actions already occuring in scores of countries, combined with our ability to communicate these revolutionary activities to others, will surely serve to cross-stimulate between countries. The momentum is building — we have a role to facilitate, communicate and accelerate this global movement.

Do you think the success of the UCI campaign can be sustained unlike, say, with the war against malaria?

You pose the $64 question and it's asked by many. The challenge for UNICEF and the supporters of children is to see that it is sustained. I do believe it would be sustained, first, because the goals for the 1990s are even more ambitious, so one can't rest on the laurels. The goal now is to push the 80 per cent level of immunization to 90 percent, to eradicate polio. So these forces would keep the pressure on to maintain the immunization. Second, the method by which the immunization goals were achieved in some countries, particularly in South Asia where in the overwhelming majority of cases children are now registered within a few weeks or months

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Botswana youth champion own rights

by Loatile Seleka

Young people have always played a role in bringing about change in their societies, and foremost in our minds is the desire to help improve the situation of children — not tomorrow but today.

We are growing up in an era of rapid change and are confronted by many challenges and difficulties. We have high expectations and need to make choices, take decisions and risks, and learn through our own experiences rather than merely follow others.

Some young people are able to face change with confidence and a vision of a better life in a future built through their own efforts. But others become confused and frustrated and may end up destroying their lives with alcohol, drug abuse and early pregnancy.

It is exciting and encouraging that some youth in Botswana realize that it is time they acted with pride and determination on issues which cannot go unchallenged. I admire the youth organizations which have kept the momentum going by launching programmes which promote socially responsible behaviour among us. These include the Reetsanang Drama Group, the Red Cross, Bana Ba Rona Trust and my own organization, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

Ms. Seleka

Children's rights are another area of concern, and strategies are being developed to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is ratified.

In pursuit of this goal, efforts are being made to use theatre as a medium of education and development. The Reetsanang Drama Group performs plays in towns and villages showing different situations which affect children's lives — child abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, urban unemployment and so on.

The YWCA of Botswana has embarked on a pilot peer counselling programme in response to the social problems facing young people today. These are reflected in the escalating figures of AIDS, school drop-outs, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and drug abuse.

The main objective of this programme is to empower secondary school students with knowledge on matters relating to sexuality and thereby reduce unwanted teenage pregnancies.

Other objectives are to expand teenagers' awareness of their values and of the consequences of their actions, while helping to increase their self-esteem and self-respect; improve communication between parents and teenagers on sexuality; and provide information on AIDS.

Loatile Seleka, an official of the Botswana YWCA, presented a plan of action on behalf of youth NGOs to the World Summit for Children.

World still looks for promised peace dividend

by Thalif Deen

When 71 political leaders met in New York during the World Summit for Children last September, there was an all-too-important question that was debated mostly outside the conference rooms but eventually left suspended in mid-air: "Can we not afford an additional $7.5 billion to save our children?"

The Summit, the largest single gathering of world leaders in history, failed to figure out how the additional funds could be raised to save the world's children from sickness, starvation and illiteracy.

UNICEF said the money was needed to ensure complete child immunization, elimination of severe child malnutrition and universal primary education for millions of children throughout the world.

A long-term target of $20 billion a year — along with a short-term $7.5 billion funding — was deemed necessary to reach the UNICEF goals for children by the year 2000.

The target was described as a pittance compared with the $800 billion spent annually on the military by industrialized countries and the $200 billion spent on weapons by developing nations.

Perhaps one of the biggest single tragedies of our times is the continued rise in global military spending, conservatively estimated by the United Nations at over $1 trillion annually.

With the collapse of the highly symbolic Berlin Wall and the reduction in East-West tension, the world patiently waited for a much-trumpeted peace dividend.

But when the shooting in the Gulf was over last February — and the guns, perhaps temporarily, silenced in the Middle Eastern desert — there was one thing left to be figured out: the monumental costs of one of the world's most expensive and environmentally destructive military conflicts ever.

The United States, which led the coalition forces against Iraq, added up the costs of a war that may have doomed the long-awaited peace dividend. The bottom line was a staggering $61 billion — and rising, perhaps.

Alluding to a peace dividend that was never paid, UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant said at the International Development Conference in Washington, D.C. earlier this year: "For a brief, exciting moment, we glimpsed a world which seemed to be putting confrontation behind it ... which was encouraging collaboration on common problems ... and which offered an enticing promise of substantial resources newly released from the preoccupations of war for attention to the occupations of peace and development."

Mr. Grant is now constrained to ask: Is that possibility now dashed? Has the $61 billion war in the Gulf given new life to armament budgets and drained life from that ephemeral peace dividend? Has the 'open window in history' now been slammed shut?

The Gulf War has not only upset the political and military balance in the Middle East, but has also set off panic-buying in a region which is the world's biggest single market for armaments.

Has the Gulf War given new life to armament budgets?

Last September, the United States announced a $20 billion arms package to Saudi Arabia in what was described as the biggest weapons sale in American history. In its latest annual report, the Washington-based Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) points out that in 1984-88 the Middle East absorbed a hefty $67.2 billion worth of weapons, compared with $50.5 billion by Western Europe and $31.5 billion by East Asia.

Perhaps the cost of half of the military equipment destroyed in the Gulf War could have met all of the goals of child survival by the year 2000.

The price of a single F/A-18 fighter plane ($30.8 million) could have paid for enough vaccines to immunize more than 400 million children against killer diseases, or provided enough high dose vitamin A capsules to 150 million toddlers for five years to stop them from going blind. The $18.4 million price tag on a single F-16 combat aircraft, which flew over 30,000 sorties during the Gulf War, could have supplied exercise books to more than 180 million school children.

When the US-led allied military forces lost six British-made Tornado ground-attack bombers during the first two weeks of the Gulf War last year, about $210 million went up in smoke.

After the war, the Iraqi national repair bill alone was estimated at over $30 billion, mostly to rebuild the country's infrastructure.

The Kuwaiti economic recovery programme is estimated to cost over $20 billion.

Long before the costs of the Gulf War were added up, UNICEF had targeted a $20 billion a year goal for a programme that could have saved the lives of some 50 million children by the year 2000.

The UNICEF target is just a fraction of the over $111 billion expended on the war and likely to be spent to reconstruct Iraq and Kuwait.

But assuming there was no war, how much of these monies would have been diverted to development and healing?

That's a question the answer to which we may never know.

Thalif Deen is Development Editor of Inter Press Service and also United Nations correspondent of Jane's Defence Weekly.

Ludwig Illo, *The Philippine Newsday*

Political priorities must put children first (UNICEF/4750 C/Roger Lemoyne).

Do our children sleep with happy dreams?

by Miyoko Hida

In the foreword of his novel *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote, "All grown-ups were once children—although few of them remember it."

We grown-ups are indeed forgetful. Only a few decades ago, rain puddles looked to me like the ocean, and I never got tired of playing in them. On a sunny day, I would blow the dandelion fuzz until I had no breath left, and watch the small parachutes fly into the sky. Or I would find the brightly twinkling first star of evening and gaze at it so intensely that my eyes felt as though they were being pulled out by the star.

But many of us have closed our jewel box full of such exciting discoveries and behave as if we have been grown-ups for at least a hundred years. Some people even say: "Children are little more than the possessions of grown-ups and they should just do as they are told."

Let us take a look at children from the historical perspective of the United Nations. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989. We may regard the Convention as a universal commitment to the children of the world.

Interest and excitement

The World Summit for Children, held in September 1990 in New York, turned out to be the biggest summit meeting ever held. At this Summit of unprecedented scale and interest, I felt with excitement, as I am sure many others did, that the time of the child had finally come. And I am sure many others also shared my distress that the situation of children is so devastating.

All the participating political leaders of the world promised at the Summit to "put children first on the political agenda". Such a commitment should not be so unusual, but in reality, political priorities most often benefit the big and the strong. Thus the world is not without war, and the small and the vulnerable are most often the victims. So, it would benefit all of us if those making political decisions were to see the world from the viewpoint of children.

In Japan we say: "If you watch children, you see what kind of parents they have." We might also say, "If we look at the world's children, we can understand what kind of world we live in." Are our children given the opportunity to grow to their full potential? Are they sleeping every night with happy dreams?

In reality, the world is not generous to children. Some are killed in war; others suffer hunger and poverty; still others, even those living in economic superpower countries, suffer emotional distress.

We should not forget that children are our future. Can we really be sure of the future of life on our planet Earth?

We grown-ups, who have always been forgetful, this time cannot be allowed to forget the promise made at the Summit — the vow to put 'children first'. This promise is in the hands of the grown-ups. Will the Summit Declaration remain just a piece of paper or will we turn it into a real treasure for the children responsible for the future of the world?

As one of those grown-ups and a member of Parliament, I am determined not to forget the promise made at the World Summit for Children.

Miyoko Hida, a Japanese parliamentarian, writes children's stories. She attended the World Summit for Children in her personal capacity.

Brazil: Model in child rights campaign

by Joyce Greene

Brazil has dramatically overhauled child rights laws, showing how concepts enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child can be written into national law to empower the people to protect children.

NGOs worldwide are looking at Brazil as an illustration of the role they can play in working with parliaments and policy makers to revise and update laws.

A case study on Brazil, to be published later this year in a report by Antonio Carlos Games da Costa and Barbara Schmidt-Rahmer, which also contains studies on Bolivia and Kenya, shows how UNICEF can support and facilitate legal and political change, leaving national institutions to play a more public role.

The principles of the Convention were introduced into Brazil's new constitution a year before the Convention was approved by the United Nations. The provisional text was already known to the children's rights movement in Brazil, and inspired the process of drafting the children's rights chapter.

However, the insertion of that chapter responded primarily to Brazil's own children's rights problems and resulted above all from locally inspired advocacy that had started with a series of reforms in the 1980s.

The study points out that success can only be achieved through a broad, non-partisan alliance of all sectors of the community involved with children's well-being — including popular movements, public and private sectors, the mass media, the judiciary and professional associations.

In 1990, the principles of the Convention were incorporated into Brazilian law by the passing of the Children and Adolescents Act. The Convention was ratified in Brazil last November.

Before the reforms, Brazil's juvenile law often did not distinguish between needy, abandoned and delinquent children, and largely dealt with problems by institutionalizing children in those categories.

However, as military controls over society loosened, social movements emerged to help the children's cause.

In 1985, the year Brazil's first civilian president in 21 years was inaugurated, a National Street Children's Movement was set up.

Popular movements and NGOs then banded together as the Permanent National NGO Forum for the Defence of Children's and Adolescents' Rights, and gathered proposals nation-wide to submit a draft bill to Congress.

Again, UNICEF played a quiet but strong mobilization role including providing technical support, and after a year of lobbying, debate and revision, the bill became law as the Children and Adolescents Act.

According to the authors of the report, children's rights now have such a high profile in Brazil that no policy maker or candidate for public office can afford to ignore the issue.

The Brazilian Government now officially acknowledges the problem of violence against children, and is willing to take on even the most difficult issues.

UNICEF cooperation will now focus on the major challenges still ahead in implementing the Act. The report says: "Children are today a priority matter on the country's political agenda, and Brazil now has the laws, the political commitment, and the popular organizations with which to deliver on the promise to make children an 'absolute priority'."

Joyce Greene is a freelance writer based in New York.

Thousands of Brazil's children must work to survive (UNICEF/4754/Jeff Perkell).

Not just verbal support but real action

Agop Kayayan, UNICEF Representative in Brasilia, said he was sceptical of the Brazilian Government's commitment to children when he arrived less than a year ago.

"I was afraid it might be just verbal support," he said. "But now I am convinced President (Fernando) Collor and his Government are working to help children. The extent of their commitment can be understood when you look at the extreme financial crisis in Brazil. Government expenditures are shrinking for absolutely all programmes except for one category — children."

He said the Government increased its support with the announcement in early August that 5,000 new schools would be constructed nation-wide.

Juvenile delinquency, the scourge of Brazilian cities, presents a daunting challenge. In an effort to reduce the problem, there has been what Mr. Kayayan called a decentralization, or municipalization, of juvenile criminal justice. Councils have been set up in cities and communities with half of their members coming from the non-governmental sector. These councils have the power of decision over rulings in juvenile delinquency cases, and also participate in programmes to prevent juvenile crime.

Most of the Government's child-related programmes are fairly new, since President Collor came to power a little over a year ago. Mr. Kayayan said it may be too early to judge the impact of the programmes, but that the Goverment's attitude was positive.

"Every month the President convenes a meeting that can last hours, just to discuss children's issues with ministers, agency heads, church leaders, the police and the private and public sectors", he said.

From violence to tenderness

One year after 180,000 Ecuadorian children voted for the protection of their rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Central Bank of Ecuador and UNICEF launched a campaign to reduce mistreatment of children by sensitizing their abusers.

The campaign, called 'Grand Agreement: From Violence to Tenderness', started with workshops in which working and street children identified policemen, bus drivers, teachers and mothers as the most abusive groups in society.

The Working Child Programme of the Central Bank and UNICEF set out last June to sensitize these groups by organizing a media campaign, workshops, and a ceremony attended by representatives of the police, church and public transport and communication sectors, together with the general manager of the Bank and the UNICEF Representative.

On 30 June, 50,000 parents and children, the Minister of Social Welfare, the Mayor of Quito, the Central Bank's general manager and the UNICEF Representative gathered in a central Quito park to sign the agreement. Artists, clowns, balloons, actors and music made the event festive.

From José Carlos Cuentas-Zavala, Representative, UNICEF Quito.

World mayors for children

UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant will address a major gathering of mayors on 30 September in Rome. The meeting, which is scheduled to coincide with the first anniversary of the World Summit for Children, is to focus on the theme of 'Mayors as Defenders'. Featured speakers include Franco Carraro, the Mayor of Rome, Mamadou Diop, the Mayor of Dakar, who is also current President of the World Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities, as well as Mr. Grant. Some 300 mayors from Italian cities, mayors from other European cities and representatives of eight international municipal organizations will also attend.

The two-day meeting will include a discussion by representatives of international municipal organizations on the Italian and other initiatives through which mayors have made a difference in the survival, development and protection of the child. A preliminary document will be adopted, forming the basis of the globalization of the experiences.

In acknowledging the role and responsibility of mayors in implementing the Summit Plan of Action, a key opportunity will be provided to focus on actions for children and solidarity with citizens of developing countries as being good politics.

The idea of presenting and reviewing the Italian initiative on an international scale was endorsed by Aldo Farina, President of the Italian Committee for UNICEF, Mayor Diop and Mr. Grant.

The Italian Committee began working with mayors on implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child soon after the treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1989.

The initiative, entitled 'Mayors: Defenders of Children', was endorsed in Rome in September 1990 by 220 mayors from all 20 Italian regions. A specific commitment was made in a statement to the Summit.

A World Movement of Mayors in support of the World Summit for Children will be formally launched at an International Colloquium of Mayors to be held in Dakar in early 1992.

Convention focuses efforts of NGOs

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force a year ago, offers NGOs a chance to mobilize effectively at all levels for the protection and development of children.

This observation was made by Dr. Philip Alston, Professor of Law at the Australian National University and one of the world's leading legal experts on the Convention.

John Shaw, a freelance writer based in Sydney, Australia, spoke to Dr. Alston about the achievements, challenges, opportunities and issues arising from the Convention.

What do you expect of the Convention?

It will certainly be the most widely ratified of all international human rights instruments. I expect it to be the focus of more direct work by the NGOs and other groups at national levels than almost any other human rights treaty. It is going to be a treaty that really makes a difference.

How does the Convention help NGOs and other advocacy groups?

The Convention is widely seen as an instrument of empowerment for children's rights. In effect it says to local activists, "Government accepts your right to pursue this issue and to apply some pressure". Ministers and bureaucrats who are concerned about children's rights can go into a meeting and point to obligations undertaken which require action to fulfil.

What other significance for community action do ratifications of the Convention carry?

One of the main functions all human rights treaties have is sending a message to the ordinary people that what they ask is now recognized as theirs by right. In that sense the Convention is very reassuring.

And beyond ratification, what of implementation and legislation?

Much legislation is expected and needed. But legislation will vary greatly — from, say, Scandinavia to developing countries. In some countries communal rights have been assumed to be above the rights of an individual child or family. It is significant that the 1990s is a period of unprecedented upheaval in constitutional terms. Many countries are reviewing their constitutions. It is clear that a number of Governments are prepared to include specific provisions on children's rights. This can provide what is called 'entrenchment' of such rights. And legislation will be less important in many areas than change in policy and community attitudes.

The Convention is widely seen as an instrument of empowerment.

What are the prospects for policy changes?

In some countries there are moves to establish children's rights commissioners. In others there are plans to identify particular bodies or individuals to be responsible for promotion and protection of children's rights. Some developing countries are delegating such responsibility to a specific ministry rather than spreading it as in the past. Such actions can be quite significant.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) holds its first meeting in September this year. What are its tasks and problems?

The CRC has to work out how to monitor what's happening in ratifying States. The number of ratifications means CRC has an enormous job — and with a small staff and budget. The Committee has to develop effective procedures, acceptable also to Governments. Great hopes are vested in the CRC by international and national NGOs.

Is the CRC crucial to making the Convention work?

The CRC can do much. However, it would be a mistake to see it as the be all and end all of the monitoring and promotion process. The real action is with the national NGOs and local activists. It is their challenge to give meaning to the Convention in their communities.

What other challenges do you see?

A major task is to put children's rights on the agenda of the various UN development agencies. Traditionally they have been very reticent about human rights matters. That is now changing — and the concept of children's rights is much closer to the heart of what they are trying to achieve.

Is the relationship between women's rights and children's rights reflected in the Convention?

Working out that relationship is another great challenge in implementation. It was widely assumed by the drafters that the two sets of rights were entirely compatible. In theory they are. The problem is in the practical sense. Some feminists may argue that recognition of children's rights imposes more obligations on women without changing social structures. Means must be found to promote women's rights and at the same time give greater attention than before to children's rights.

With the Convention on the books is there a danger that Governments and others may think their job is done?

Governments often assume that once they have ratified an agreement on an issue the pressure is off. Experience with human rights treaties shows there is that more relaxed period, and then pressure resumes if the expectations of the public and advocacy groups are not met. Sooner or later the act of ratification acquires greater significance. The Convention is emerging and evolving as an enduring international benchmark against which performance on its subject will be measured.

What are the next key stages?

The Convention provides for preparation of comprehensive reports — the first within two years of entry into force (i.e. by 1992) and every five years thereafter. These provide important opportunities and occasions for Governments to review legislation and policies. They also enable NGOs to draw government attention to priorities for action. They also provide opportunities for NGOs to contribute to the international monitoring process by indicating to the CRC what they see as any shortcomings in domestic policies.

The Convention empowers children to assert rights (UNICEF/4764 C/John Chiasson).

Mr. Moore

Moore is licensed to serve

The children of the world have gained a new champion for their cause — British actor Roger Moore, a.k.a. the Saint and James Bond.

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Richard Jolly, acting on behalf of Executive Director James P. Grant, appointed Mr. Moore Special Representative for the Film Arts on 9 August at UN Headquarters in New York. "Now double-O seven (007) is pledging double efforts for the under-sevens through UNICEF," said Mr. Jolly.

Mr. Moore said he became aware of the plight of displaced children when stationed in Germany, and has followed the work of UNICEF through the years. He said he admired the work of Danny Kaye, who was able to make children smile. "I want to be able to make children smile, and they can only smile if their stomachs are full, if they are healthy," Mr. Moore said.

After the press conference, Mr. Moore left for a tour of Central America to visit UNICEF-assisted health and immunization, water and sanitation, education, street children and community development programmes in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Also on the agenda were meetings with Central American presidents and government officials, artists and opinion leaders to promote the welfare of children, and the conferring of National Press Awards on Central American journalists for their promotion of solutions to problems facing children.

Mr. Moore's association with UNICEF dates back to the early 1980s when he promoted UNICEF greeting cards in radio spots prepared by the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. He was UNICEF spokesperson at the Zecchino D'Oro Song Festival in Bologna, Italy, and co-hosted with actress Audrey Hepburn the 1990 and 1991 Danny Kaye International Children's Award television programme from the Netherlands.

Letter: A supreme irony

Dear Editor: I deeply appreciate Peter Adamson's insightful and courageous exposé of the unwitting damage many of us in the North are inflicting upon the people of the South (*First Call for Children*, No.1). It is a supreme irony that in our desire to help the processes of development, we undermine the actual achievements of developing countries by misrepresenting their reality in our communications. Mr. Adamson honestly stated that he has no solutions. But he has provided an excellent starting point for all of us. Let us, journalists and donors, get together and discuss as he suggests, "a common code on communications for and about the developing world". Let us also be careful not to err the other way and completely lose sight of the real problems of development.

Veena Sundararaman
Editor, *IMPACT*

Nice images work

Positive images of disabled people are as effective communication tools as negative ones, says Rina Gill, information officer, UNICEF Kathmandu. They were preferred by 80 per cent of the viewers in her 1989 study. Ms. Gill pointed to the success of polio immunization announcements showing the disabled as responsible people giving good counsel. Copies of her study are available from UNICEF Kathmandu.

Building support for Convention: The case of UK

by Gill Wilcox

The Convention on the Rights of the Child offered us in the United Kingdom a unique opportunity to raise public awareness about the needs of children and about the work of UNICEF. Over the last three years, we have seized this opportunity to build enduring partnerships with organizations with which previously we had little contact. Today, UNICEF's public profile in the UK is higher than ever before and this is due, in no small part, to our work in promoting the Convention. One of the reasons for this success is that we have, perhaps for the first time, become firmly identified in the public's perception as an advocate for children in Britain as well as in the developing world.

Our work on the Convention is based on three objectives. Firstly, we seek to embed the Convention in attitudes, practices and policies in the UK at every level, whether it be an individual parent, family member or the national Government. Secondly, we seek to maintain an international perspective on children's rights and ensure the global nature of the Convention is not forgotten. Thirdly, we use the Convention as a reference point when explaining UNICEF's work globally.

Catalyst and initiator

At the outset, we were aware that we would not be able to do all the work ourselves. Instead, we sought out partners who would be able to take the Convention in directions beyond our own expertise and resources. The role of the UK Committee was that of a catalyst and initiator. The result of three years of this work has been that the UK Committee now sits at the centre of a whole network of partner organizations all contributing in their different ways to the cause of children's rights.

Promotion of the Convention has had three distinct but overlapping phases. In the early alliance-building phase we have taken a short-term leadership role in gathering support. This was done through intensive information, press and education work involving six staff members. In addition to informing the public in general, we selected key target groups. A priority has been to involve children and young people in the advocacy campaign. In 1989, we held a youth conference in which all the delegates were under 18. The UK Committee has produced, jointly with Save the Children Fund, a teacher's pack on the Convention, designed for use by children eight to 13 years old.

It was the UK Committee which brought all interested organizations together to work on a coherent plan of action. Our short-term aim at this stage was to firmly establish the Convention as a priority on the agendas of UK-focused organizations such as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), the National Children's Bureau and the Children's Society. This was not a difficult task as many organizations were quick to appreciate the practical implications of the Convention for their work.

Once this had been achieved, we moved into the pre-ratification phase, when we worked with partners to create interest among parliamentarians and policy makers. At this stage, partner organizations, having committed themselves to making the Convention a priority, took a more active role. The United Nations Association, for example, organized much of the parliamentary work, coordinating the Parliamentary Committee on the Rights of the Child which has the support of all political parties. The Children's Legal Centre has taken a central role in analyzing the legislative implications of the Convention.

As the UK Government has not yet ratified the Convention, this phase is still continuing. Nonetheless, we are already looking ahead to the post-ratification period. Then, emphasis will be on monitoring the implementation of the Convention in the UK. Our role will switch to being more supportive than leading, leaving the organizations with the expertise, experience and mandate to do the monitoring of the National Report and the implementation process.

In preparation for this stage, we have been instrumental in setting up the Children's Rights Development Unit (CRDU), a joint initiative of UNICEF-UK and a group of children's NGOs. The CRDU will be an independent non-profit organization which will operate for a three-year period to monitor the implementation of the Convention. The Trustees will be individuals from major UK child-focused organizations, including the Director of the UK National Committee.

We have attracted substantial private finance from trusts, foundations and the child welfare sector. This autumn, six staff members will be appointed and their function will be implementation of the Convention at every level. They will monitor national legislation and the National Report, and will take over the role previously performed by the UK Committee for UNICEF as national catalyst and main source of information on the Convention.

Our emphasis within the Rights of the Child coalition will shift almost entirely to stressing the international dimension of the Convention and its significance for UNICEF. This is a marked change from the early days, when we were constantly pointing out the relevance of the Convention to children in Britain.

The benefits of our advocacy work around the Convention have been and will continue to be far-reaching. Director Robert Smith observes: "The interest generated by the Convention, the Summit and the Innocenti Centre's *Report on Child Poverty and Deprivation in the UK* has brought benefits to almost all other areas of the Committee's work. In terms of the public's awareness of children's issues and of UNICEF, we have achieved a quantum leap".

Gill Wilcox is Information Officer, UK Committee for UNICEF.

Equal education is a Convention provision (UNICEF/4763 C/John Chiasson).

Raising funds in Finland on Children's Day

Children's Day, celebrated annually in Finland on the first Monday of October, marks the biggest national fund-raising campaign organized by the Finnish Committee for UNICEF. It is carried out with Finland's 30 UNICEF volunteer groups, schools, radio stations and the rest of the media.

One goal of the drive is to increase awareness about Africa, especially Niger and Mozambique, among students, and the general public. The second goal is to collect money to support UNICEF village programmes in these countries. These programmes are partially financed by the Finnish Committee.

The Committee makes contacts with the groups concerned, arranges training and supports the volunteer groups in arranging fund-raising events. The Committee already has produced a development education kit on Niger and will soon have one on Mozambique to support events in schools.

Pledge challenges

Volunteer groups contact schools, youth organizations and other groups in their areas to arrange events, including what is called a radio plea concert. The 'plea' means that an individual or enterprise pledges a certain sum and challenges another person or group to match that pledge. Between pledges, the radio station plays recorded music. The Committee provides continuous information support.

The principle is that the volunteer group mobilizes other groups in the area to undertake the work of organizing the events and to pay the costs. The group is also responsible for media contacts. Arranging the plea concert to appeal to the public via radio is the group's most demanding task.

The Finnish Broadcasting Corporation offers technical assistance and programmes. The groups take care of arranging responses to the challenges to match incoming pledges and the practical steps to ensure the pledges are fulfilled. Schools arrange such events as "Africa days" and an exchange market for old toys and books. There is also door-to-door fund-raising carried out by students over 16.

Japanese groups back Summit goals

From large corporations to small volunteer groups, Japanese organizations have supported goals targeted by UNICEF and the World Summit for Children to be achieved by the year 2000, according to Yoshihisa Togo, director and secretary-general of the Japan Committee for UNICEF.

Mr. Togo said that, after receiving Summit material from his Committee, several organizations had included advocacy on these goals in their support for UNICEF. He said: "Their cooperation is reflected in the amount of funds which each of the bodies has raised." He gave the example of Myochikai Kyodan, a religious group, which had raised US$900,000 for water supply and sanitation projects in Bangladesh and the Gulf region.

The girl child also

A symposium entitled 'The Girl Child Also', held recently in Casablanca, Morocco, drew 150 experts from the five Maghreb countries (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) to discuss the situation of the girl child.

Their recommendations included changing parents' attitudes, ensuring adequate nutrition, and raising awareness of the risks of early pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and work in harmful environments. A permanent follow-up committee will review actions taken on these recommendations.

It's now time to be baby-friendly...

Breastfeeding nature's way (UNICEF/4749 C/Maggie Murray-Lee).

Like the arms of a mother cradling her newborn baby at her breast, a new generation of 'baby-friendly' hospitals would seek to envelop infants with warmth and protection.

The term 'baby-friendly' was coined by UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant. The idea of giving special recognition to hospitals that promote breastfeeding stemmed from the Innocenti Declaration, drafted in July 1990 by a group of policy makers at a meeting convened by WHO and UNICEF, in association with USAID and SIDA (U.S. and Swedish government funding agencies) in Florence, Italy.

The Declaration called for the creation of an environment "enabling all women to practise exclusive breastfeeding, and all infants to feed exclusively on breast milk from birth to four to six months of age, and to continue with adequate complementary foods for up to two years or beyond".

Less than one year later, a plan to launch an initiative to promote 'baby-friendly' hospitals was adopted at a meeting of paediatricians, obstetricians, community health workers and NGO members in Ankara, Turkey, on 28 June 1991.

Once again, the focus of the plan was to promote breastfeeding in hospitals for the following reasons:

* **breastfeeding saves lives** — the risk of death for infants in developing countries who do not breastfeed is 10 to 15 times greater in the first three to four months of life than that for babies who are exclusively breastfed.

* **breast milk is the perfect food for infants** — it fulfils the infant's total nutrient requirement through four to six months of age, and remains an invaluable source of nourishment through the second year of life.

* **breastfeeding prevents diarrhoea** — infants not breastfed are at least twice as likely to get diarrhoea and up to 25 times more likely to die from its effects during the first two months of life, compared to those exclusively breastfed.

* **breastfeeding confers immunity** — colostrum is the child's first immunization; breast milk protects the infant from bacterial and viral pathogens prior to and during the time of acquiring immunity through vaccination.

* **breastfeeding is effective family planning** — it protects against pregnancy during the first six months.

* **breastfeeding protects mothers' health** — research indicates it may significantly lower the mother's risk of breast and ovarian cancer and reduce the chances of fatal postpartum haemorrhage.

* **breastfeeding saves money** — it is cost-effective, providing economic benefits to families, hospitals and national economies.

Twelve countries have been picked to lead the 'baby-friendly' initiative — Bolivia, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkey. It is hoped that a number of flagship 'baby-friendly' hospitals will be designated in these countries in time for the official launch, due to take place on 1 January 1992.

The criteria for a hospital to be 'baby-friendly' would be worked out by individual countries. However, among the criteria likely to be included are the response of the hospital to the mother's need for dignity and high quality maternity care; its regular monitoring of the baby's growth; its use of oral rehydration therapy to treat diarrhoeal diseases; its offering immunization to all children brought in for examination; and its provision of family planning as well as health education services.

Ms. Schellinski-Magazzeni

... and never too early to fight to be breastfed

by Kristina Schellinski-Magazzeni

When my doctor told me in January the wonderful news that I was expecting a baby, I had no idea that my son-to-be would be the youngest-ever advocate for child survival and activist for the right to be breastfed. At this time he is still not born — he is due some time in September — yet he's been fighting for months for what has been coined the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative.

Here's how it happened. In May, James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, together with WHO, persuaded infant formula manufacturers to stop providing free samples of their products in maternity hospitals and wards by December 1992. These samples are tempting mothers away from breastfeeding in developing countries. The idea arose of promoting hospitals as 'baby-friendly' if they follow the joint WHO/UNICEF Statement of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding. Now, who could be more baby-friendly than a mother or mother-to-be? This thought must have inspired Mr. Grant when he saw that I was expecting.

"How about your hospital?" he asked. "Is it baby-friendly?"

That same day I sent a letter to the Hôpital de la Tour in Geneva, a small but advanced hospital which belongs to the Texas-based Humana chain. As a UNICEF staff member and mother, I wanted to know what they thought about the ten steps.

Within a week the answer arrived. I was surprised. They only scored six and a half out of ten. They provided infants with glucose water and artificial pacifiers because, as they said, "a mother often wishes that her child be calm and satisfied." Rooming-in to allow mother and baby to remain together 24 hours a day was only possible if the mother had a private room and if she discharged the hospital personnel from all responsibility; most health insurance, though, covers only a two-bed room. Finally, the hospital did not seem to refer the new mothers to Geneva's well-established breastfeeding support groups.

The mobilization had started. What I could do, thousands of others could do too, be they mothers-to-be or concerned citizens such as volunteers for UNICEF. At their 36th Annual Meeting at the end of May, Mr. Grant challenged the National Committees to put their formidable networks of 75,000 volunteers in industrialized countries, plus their best contacts in professional associations and influential groups, behind the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative. "You'll give a most important signal to developing countries", he said. "It is time to change. The largest potential breakthrough in assuring child survival and development lies in a return to breastfeeding."

Several National Committees, including those of Australia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey and the United Kingdom, enthusiastically supported the Initiative, and since then others have joined. All left the meeting with a copy of the letter to the Hôpital de la Tour — to be adapted for their own use. What next? First of all we followed up with the hospital and then we mobilized those who mobilize volunteers: National Committee executive directors or presidents and their volunteer coordinators. It wasn't all easy-going.

Margaret Kyenkya-Isabirye, UNICEF advisor on infant and child feeding, helped devise a good strategy. "Take a professional but gentle breastfeeding advocate with you and go see the hospital administration", she said. "A militant approach will scare them." The 'gentle' advocate I found was Christine Bleus, a Belgian midwife and head of the Geneva Infant Feeding Association. We planned the encounter for August, deciding to focus on the few minor changes that would make the Hôpital de la Tour 'baby-friendly'. As I am living the experience, I will also be able to distinguish between action and rhetoric.

As for the mobilization of volunteers for UNICEF for the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, the National Committee volunteer coordinators were informed and were asked their opinion. Models for action are under discussion. Yet, several said that the return to breastfeeding had already taken place five to ten years ago in their countries.

While it is true that there has been a trend back to breastfeeding in the late 1970s and 1980s in industrialized countries, it is curious that even in modern Geneva there is a battle going on to make one of the hospitals yet more baby-friendly. Just curious, I sent off another letter to each of the town's hospitals and asked friends to do the same. The answers showed that they are not yet perfect.

Judging from the experience of many of my friends who have recently had babies, there's nothing more important than support to the breastfeeding mother: advertising still nourishes the mother's doubt as to her ability and capacity to fully breastfeed a child during its first six months. "It's not so easy," they say. The bottle is still procured together with crib and changing table. And even in the back of my own mind lurks the question: What if after all this hell I am raising, I am not able to? Where does it come from, I wonder, this erosion of confidence?

Kristina Schellinski-Magazzeni is Public Affairs Officer, UNICEF Geneva.

Transition worsens status of vulnerable groups

by Giovanni Andrea Cornia

Since the early 1970s, the welfare of children and other vulnerable groups has improved only marginally and, in some cases, has even stagnated in the countries of central and eastern Europe. This social crisis resulted from the failures and biases of public policy in health care, housing, nutrition and education, and also from the worsening performance of the economy during these years. By 1989, this decline — and the protracted lack of political freedom — had made a radical overhaul of the political and economic system unavoidable.

The transition to democratic pluralism and market economy in eastern Europe has generated enormous political benefits and considerable hopes for economic prosperity and improved living conditions. Expectations contrast sharply, however, with economic realities. Most countries have to cope with the problems of economic stabilization, privatization, redirection of trade and major institutional modification. In this process, the breadth, coverage and focus of safety nets have been limited, while issues of distribution and social policy have remained, by and large, a marginal topic in the debate. There is a danger, therefore, that the principle of "first call for children" and other marginal groups may be lost during this process.

The decrease in real incomes, the increase in prices of basic goods and services, the erosion of cash transfers to families and the decline in real government spending on health and education are affecting negatively — and to some extent unavoidably — the living standards of most families. There are already clear indications that social conditions are worsening in all the countries.

Since 1989, the number of children living in poor families has increased throughout the region. In Poland, poverty affected about 40 per cent of the population in the first nine months of 1990.

Family income spent on food has increased by 50 to 60 per cent in Poland, Hungary and other countries, while the consumption of bread, milk and other basic foods has decreased in Bulgaria, Poland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

In Hungary and Poland, religious and private charitable organizations have established soup kitchens and shelters for the homeless, but are unable to meet needs.

Higher charges for school meals and fees have forced many families to withdraw their children from public nurseries, and most 'company' nursery schools have been closed for lack of funds. Imported medicines for children — never sufficient — are even more difficult to buy now. In Bulgaria, formula milk for allergic babies is scarce, and the only factory producing it is on the point of closing. The lack of imported equipment has forced many hospital operating rooms to close.

The problems facing several of the countries are beginning to resemble those which arose in the 1980s in many developing countries. The World Bank recently observed that many countries experiencing macro-economic difficulties in the 1980s paid little attention to the effects on the poor of structural adjustment policies: The *1990 World Development Report* stated: "As the decade continued, it became clear that macro-economic recovery and structural change were slow in coming. Evidence of declines in incomes and cutbacks in social services began to mount."

The Bank said that it was UNICEF which first brought the issue into the centre of the debate, although by the end of the decade it had become important for all agencies, and is now reviewed in all adjustment programmes financed by the Bank. Attention is "focused both on how adjustment policies affect the poor and on the specific measures that can be taken to cushion the short-term costs", said the Bank. Unless current policies are modified, a similar situation faces central and eastern Europe.

Safety nets have been introduced to deal with rising social costs, but because of under-funding and their limited scope, they are inadequate. The high social cost of current reforms falls heavily on the most vulnerable, particularly children, and could endanger the entire transition. It could also give rise to migrations of biblical proportions to western Europe, as well as to a debilitating brain drain.

There are a number of measures that could help cushion the impact:

* Assured access to basic health, education and child-care services;

* Child and family benefits for children of parents who are out of work;

* Subsidized school meals should be retained, at least during the initial transition.

* Homelessness must be dealt with by, for example, converting unused buildings into shelters for the homeless, and by applying rent control;

* Strengthen measures aimed at maintaining minimum family incomes;

* Simple and timely mechanisms to monitor the development of social policy.

The difficulties encountered by the current reform programmes and the increasingly alarming reports of their high social costs cannot be ignored by the international community.

Much-needed international aid to social sector activities has been limited to date.

While development assistance must not be deflected from the developing world, especially Africa, efforts must also be made in this sector to help eastern Europe.

Giovanni Andrea Cornia is Senior Project Officer, International Child Development Centre, UNICEF Florence.

Book Review by Steve Hein

Children and the Transition to the Market Economy: Safety Nets and Social Policies in Central and Eastern Europe, by Giovanni Andrea Cornia and Sándor Sipos, eds., Averbury, Gower House, Aldershot, Hampshire, England.

In 1990 Poland set up social measures, or 'safety nets' to help ensure the welfare of children and other vulnerable groups and to minimize the impact of declining household income and increasing unemployment. By the beginning of 1991, income had declined by 27 per cent and unemployment had tripled, rendering the safety nets inadequate.

The urgent thesis of this UNICEF study is that in their eagerness to create market economies the countries of central and eastern Europe have largely neglected the social costs. The study finds that, without the safety nets of public and private social security measures,

Hungary's gypsies fe economic crunch

by Madeline Eisner

For gypsy families in Hungary, the transition to democracy has ushered in a renewed awakening of identity. But as the shift from a state-run to a market economy sweeps the country, they are also one of the first groups to feel the resulting economic crunch.

"While there is more hope to bring back gypsy identity, we are now beginning to live in even more difficult circumstances," says Antonia Haga, a parliamentarian who represents the Alliance of Free Democrats, one of the three opposition parties. She was one of two gypsies to have won a seat in the newly formed Parliament last year.

Hungary's gypsy population is the most deprived, least integrated and most discriminated against of all ethnic groups in the country. It is also the largest ethnic minority, accounting for an estimated 7 per cent of the Hungarian population. The permanent settlements of the gypsies are generally on the outskirts of towns or in the Szabolcs hinterland, and together with urban gypsies and transient workers they number between 500,000 and 600,000.

Faced with rampant discrimination, gypsies are often the first to be accused of criminal behaviour. Such age-old prejudices continue. In the city of Miskolc in northeast Hungary, where a UNICEF team pays a visit, dark-eyed children walk ankle-deep in mud and teenagers sporting leather jackets gather in the narrow streets under the drizzling r...n to listen to a young guitarist strum lyrical gypsy songs. They form a circle around four elderly women who have taken centre stage to dance gaily to the delight of the others.

Prejudices against gypsies remain strong (UNICEF/4772 Z/Sean Sprague).

"I don't want to become a thief, but all I can do now is pick and sell flowers to help support my family," says Kanalas, a mother of eight children who invites the visiting UNICEF team to her small two-room house. The quarters are tight and the housing is dilapidated. Four children sleep in the dimly lit bedroom and another four make do on mattresses in the adjoining kitchen. But despite the drabness, there is clean water and electricity and the Government provides free health-care services.

Like most families in Hungary, the Kanalas family receives assistance such as child benefits, paid to the parent until the child is age 16, or in the case of secondary school students, until a maximum of 20 years. Families like hers can also often count on other child allowance and unemployment support. But even such help to gypsy families is now resented by the rest of society as the overall amount of government allowances diminishes.

As local governments assume greater budget responsibility, such support is now threatened. For the most vulnerable in particular, growing inflation also means greater hardship, as their salaries can no longer keep up with rising prices.

Such fears are already taking shape in settlements that ring industrial cities like Miskolc where many of Hungary's gypsies have migrated to work as labourers in mining and construction. Over the past ten years, some 50,000 people, mainly gypsies, have swelled the city looking for work. And today, Miskolc embodies one of the challenges facing Hungary's leaders: how to overhaul or dispense with unprofitable heavy industries without bringing about massive lay-offs.

Gypsy youth and children are particu-

UNICEF launches $1 m Albanian appeal

UNICEF has launched an appeal for US$1 million to provide emergency assistance to Albania for six months. Food and medical supplies are needed urgently to alleviate the plight of children and women as the Balkan nation struggles with a severe economic crisis after nearly 50 years of isolation. UNICEF advanced US$500,000 immediately from its revolving Emergency Relief Fund (ERF).

"The situation is extremely serious," said Jim Mohan, leader of a UNICEF mission to Albania in August. "We visited hospitals with badly malnourished children, some in an acute state," he added.

How world can help the children of change

ldren and other at-risk groups face ssive impoverishment.

n 1990 and 1991, central and eastern ropean countries introduced far-rang- and necessary economic reforms ned at eliminating government deficits, ntrolling inflation and meeting the de- nd for consumer goods.

As was the case with the structural ad- tments undertaken by many develop- countries in the 1980s, people in cen- l and eastern Europe have begun to ex- rience increasingly difficult economic nditions.

The UNICEF study finds that while the gion is not yet in crisis there are serious oblems: growing poverty among chil- en and other marginal groups, increased ant mortality rates, reduced food con- mption, declining attendance in kinder- garten, diminished availability of certain essential drugs and a gradual increase in homelessness. Compounding these difficulties are two factors. First is a general neglect by Governments of the need for safety nets. Second is that where safety nets had been put into place, they have often been rendered ineffective by economic stagnation.

The study recommends that during the transitional period, central and eastern European countries should intensify measures at the national level to address these problems.

It also calls on the international community to support the transition process.

This study will be of interest to both the general public and development specialists. The former will find in this report new insights into East-West dynamics, such as why east European countries are pressing the industrialized countries for financial aid. The work offers scholars a wealth of statistical data and analysis.

Children and the Transition to a Market Economy was published by the UNICEF International Child Development Centre, the Innocenti Centre in Florence, Italy. It includes information from National Committees for UNICEF in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia and the USSR. It is based, in part, on the results of a roundtable entitled 'Safety Nets for Children in Central and Eastern Europe', held in Warsaw in October 1990.

Economic reforms must not overlook social concerns (UNICEF/4768 2/Sean Sprague).

el

rly disadvantaged, says the director of e newly formed Gypsy Youth Federa- on, Mihaly Fatyol. The lack of educa- on and identity leaves them unprepared cope in a changing society, he says.

According to him, only 10 per cent of psy children finish high school and less an 0.5 per cent go on to university. In effort to reverse this trend, for the first ne last year a summer camp was orga- zed by the Gypsy Youth Federation to lp motivate and prepare gypsy youth r secondary school. As a result, more an 80 per cent of the 50 students en- lled were admitted to secondary school.

Such programmes may prove to be al- rnatives to state institutions, where any underprivileged and abandoned psy children were housed in the past. ese institutions varied greatly, but even ose set in idyllic surroundings — as one sited by the UNICEF team — kept chil- en in isolation from the outside world.

Once thrust out on their own as young dults, many turned to crime, prostitution vagrancy, as they were ill-equipped to ake it on their own, according to direc- rs of two such institutions. For many of em the shock of rampant discrimination tside of the institution and their diffi- lty in rejoining gypsy society prompted lture shock and a crisis of identity.

Mr. Fatyol says that in order to instil psy youth with greater confidence and sense of cultural identity, his organiza- on seeks to to initiate educational ogrammes that are controlled and man- ed by gypsies; and to teach gypsy youth advocate politically.

The democratic opening has spawned number of gypsy organizations. In the st five years, some 50 gypsy grassroots ganizations and three gypsy bilingual wspapers have been established.

Important legal changes to improve the t of gypsies are currently under discus- on. A new law on the status of minori- es covering issues such as autonomy and rliamentary representation is expected be debated in Parliament later this year.

Madeline Eisner is Information Officer, NICEF headquarters.

Eastern European children need safety nets — Jolly

Eastern European children need more attention during the current transition of the region to market economy if they are to be well prepared, Dr. Richard Jolly, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director (Programmes), told *Steve Hein, a freelance writer based in New York*, in an interview recently.

What is the situation of children and other at-risk groups in eastern Europe?

As the countries of eastern and central Europe have embarked on moves to a market economy, the economic mechanisms that were formerly in place— health services, education and so on — have been strained by a lack of resources. Even formerly, the statistics may have overstated the welfare of children in these countries. And now, the very moves to the market have created new problems.

Changes have led to unemployment at much higher levels than were anticipated. Inflation has reached rates never experienced before, and this reduces the real purchasing power of families.

As my colleagues have pointed out, and as Mr. Grant summarized in his address to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva in early July, the situation is quite serious.

The focus of many people on the needs of eastern and central Europe is still, in UNICEF's view, not sufficiently human-focused.

At the ECOSOC debate there was an excessive euphoria about the positive aspects of moving to the market, but far too little attention has been paid to the need to develop safety nets for children and for other groups with special needs.

As John Kenneth Galbraith pointed out in a recent article in the *New York Review of Books*, proponents of capitalism in eastern and central Europe have underemphasized the extent to which all capitalist systems in the world today have a range of support mechanisms that go beyond the market. This is true in the United States, and even more so in most of the countries of Europe.

How do you see safety nets being created?

The UNICEF study, *Children and the Transition to the Market Economy*, identifies the three principal types of safety nets. These need to be debated. The so-called modern liberal U.S. model is based partly on need and work but is not comprehensive, emphasizing targeted groups. The German conservative model is focused on work, in which if you have a job you are part of the social insurance system, but if not, then you may slip through the net. Last is the Swedish social democratic system in which all citizens have a guarantee of welfare.

Of course when you examine the extent of poverty in these three countries, the overall level in the U.S. is well over two times that of Sweden, and for children it is more than three times greater.

What are the long-term implications for eastern and central European countries if their children are not taken care of adequately?

UNICEF is very clear on this. It is not merely that many more children will be living in poverty. The threat of inadequate education, malnutrition and weaknesses in health will have long-lasting repercussions for the future development of these economies and societies. Of course, it is very difficult to predict the future, or even to be sure just what the extent of poverty is in eastern and central Europe today relative to other parts of the world.

Certainly there's no doubt that unless some pretty urgent actions are taken, many of the children will not be well prepared for the future.

Where are these countries going to find the resources, and how will the developing countries be affected?

Let's deal with their internal resources first. This has few implications for the Third World, since countries in eastern and central Europe were never major aid donors, as opposed to the Soviet Union. The challenge is how to ensure that a reasonable proportion of their total resources goes to support social security nets.

At the moment, these economies are probably going backwards rather than forwards. And because their economies are shifting their structures, they have a whole new problem of establishing a basis for taxation.

Traditionally, these economies received a high proportion of their revenue from the earnings of the enterprises. Now that they have started to privatize, the state enterprises are generating less revenue. And yet the countries may not have created a reasonable tax base.

The other major issue in eastern and central Europe is that, where the first call used to be for the military, the new first call should be for human security, human development and child development as the Summit Declaration said.

As regards the international issues, if military aid or military purchases are fading away or can at least be kept lower than they were, that would free up resources and foreign exchange.

Also, if aid is more efficiently allocated, then the conflict between Europe's calls for aid and the Third World's continuing strong needs for aid can be minimized.

But at the moment, I do believe that some part of the claim of the Third World for aid is receiving less attention as political interest shifts to eastern and central Europe.

What is UNICEF doing to allay the concerns of the Third World countries?

We are emphasizing the vital needs which have to be met in the really poor parts of the world, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries outside of Africa. The needs in eastern and central Europe are still nowhere near as urgent or as deep as the needs of poor people in less developed countries.

AIDS: Going beyond education

by June Kunugi

After about five years of educational programmes conducted in East Africa by UNICEF and other organizations to promote awareness of AIDS, a second generation of activity is necessary to bring about behavioural change.

"We're not at all satisfied that providing people with information on AIDS and how AIDS is spread is having a significant impact on behaviour", said Sarah Anne Fegan-Wyles, until recently UNICEF Representative in Kampala, Uganda. "We need interactive discussions now which ask people, 'Given that you know how AIDS is spread, why are you still having unsafe sex?'"

Some programmes have been very successful in spreading the word about AIDS. Ms. Fegan-Wyles said UNICEF's health education programme, the largest in Uganda, has covered all 38 districts including 8,000 primary schools. Dr. Susan Allen of the University of California at San Francisco, who is conducting an AIDS study in Kigali, Rwanda, believes that except for people in very remote rural areas, most of the country is aware of the pandemic and how it is spread.

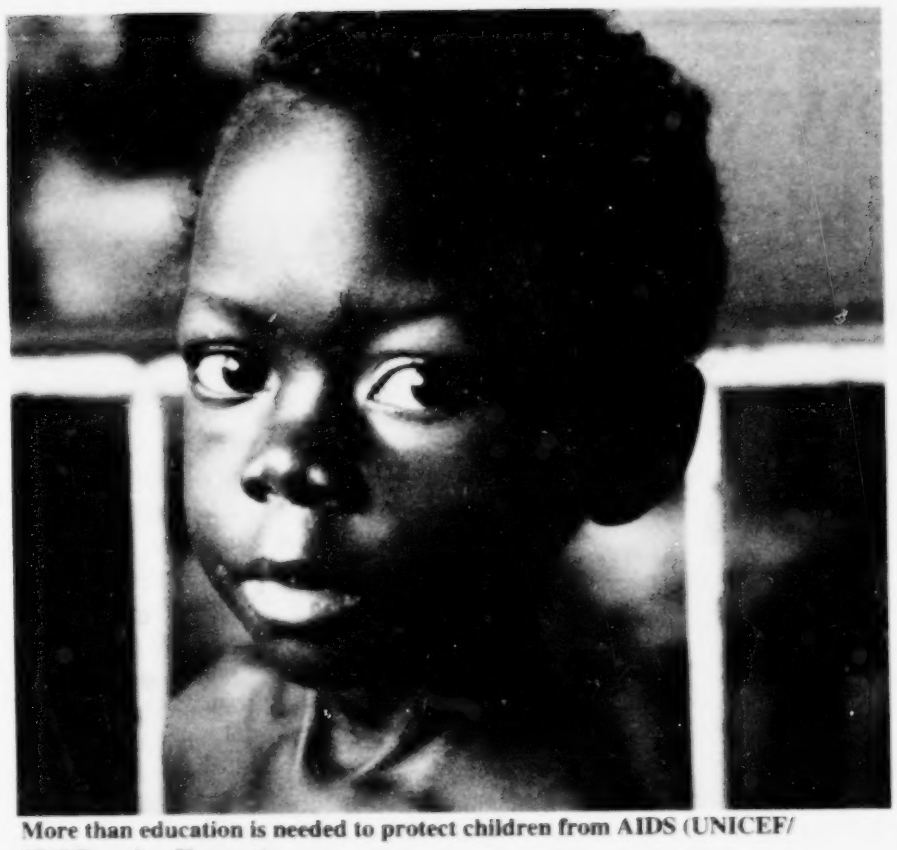
However, many have yet to take the crucial step in translating that information into behavioural change. The number of new AIDS cases continues to grow every year, with a 58 per cent increase over the last year in Uganda, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Ugandan Government estimates there are now over one million people infected out of the total population of 16 million. WHO predicts there will be two million Ugandan orphans by the end of the century as a direct result of the disease.

Ms. Fegan-Wyles estimates that all AIDS education programmes in Uganda combined have influenced no more than 30 per cent of the population. This figure is supported by a 1990 USAID survey conducted among 600 Ugandan workers which found that 71.2 per cent had heard of, but never used, a condom. Among the non-users, 39 percent said condoms were not necessary because they trusted their partner.

More problematic still is the social position of women. Ms. Fegan-Wyles said it is not culturally acceptable for married women to refuse to have sex with their husbands. In addition, she said sex is often a means of economic survival for women of all ages.

"It's a very complicated system of exchange of favours here, and for most women, the only favour they've got to exchange is sex", said Ms. Fegan-Wyles. "This is how young girls get school fees from a protector, and older women have their produce driven to the market. When they're confronted with a non-visible, hypothetical risk, and an immediate need, unless we can relieve the economic pressures which are forcing people into this, we're not going to have an impact."

Dr. Allen says that in Rwanda, which has the highest fertility rate in Africa, 8.6 live births per woman, women who know that either they or their partners have AIDS or are HIV-positive will still try to get pregnant, for women are judged by their ability to have children.



More than education is needed to protect children from AIDS (UNICEF/2742/Douglas Clement).

When sexual relations are part of a prevailing structure of social, practical and emotional support, asking people to change their sexual behaviour becomes a monumental challenge. Yet this is the only method Ms. Fegan-Wyles says health workers in Uganda see as being effective.

She said that although there is no national interactive system in place to promote such personal discussions, efforts have already been made to start work with church groups, women's groups and other groups, such as the police, agricultural cooperatives and the army.

"At a water project, agricultural project, anywhere people get together to talk, there have to be discussions with women talking to women, men talking to men, and then men and women talking together," said Ms. Fegan-Wyles. "You're talking now about people either dying, or having safe sex."

June Kunugi is a freelance writer based in New York.

Summit follow-up is on target — Grant

from page 2

of birth — this process can be very effectively used to piggy-back other services whether it's vitamin A, iodine deficiency, disease correction, oral rehydration therapy or even, ultimately, to help achieve our maternal mortality goals. The Extended Programme of Immunization (EPI) was *designed* as a part of Primary Health Care (PHC) — a leading edge using PHC personnel, facilities and the community. We attempted to avoid the history of malaria eradication efforts which had their own workers, own money, own hierarchy and were designed to end with eradication which never came! EPI is an integral part of PHC. EPI is forever!

How would you respond to a suggestion that UNICEF-sponsored debt swaps cannot make a major impact on the Third World debt which is well in excess of a trillion dollars?

Clearly, the debt swaps for children so far have been insignificant in terms of their impact on the reduction of the debt burden. However, with respect to generating local currency for children, they have generated many millions of dollars' worth of local currency. This is clearly a significant plus.

How has the implementation of the Summit goals and of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stood up to the winds of political change?

Well, for example, take the case of Mali where President Traoré was active as an initiator and a co-chairman of the Summit and was deposed last Spring. At the Abuja Summit, the Malian delegation made it very clear that they considered Traoré's actions as being on behalf of Mali and not just for himself. They distributed a memorandum to that effect and were active in Abuja in moving the resolution on follow-up to the World Summit.

Have you started seeing positive and meaningful results in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention with respect to the protection and development of children?

It is too early to expect to see much in terms of results from the Convention. The current agenda is to encourage more countries to ratify and then to take action to implement the Convention. A very important part, of course, is to familiarize the public with the fact that there is a Convention, that children have rights and that adults have responsibilities. Ecuador, with its 'Convention Election' in the summer of 1990, where over 150,000 children aged 6 to 12 years old voted to decide on the most important elements of the Convention, provided a magnificent example of how to inform and sensitize the majority of the public to the existence of the Convention.

The concept of the baby-friendly hospital is not mentioned in the Summit goals, yet it will be a major UNICEF initiative. Is there any concern that the infant formula industry will use the cut-off of free hospital supplies, as well as its contacts with WHO and UNICEF, to legitimize aggressive marketing thus undermining efforts to promote breastfeeding?

One of the explicit goals of the World Summit was to promote breastfeeding, including exclusive breastfeeding for the first four to six months after birth. The baby-friendly hospital initiative is a creative method of implementing that goal and follows appropriately from the Innocenti meeting in August 1990. In short, it's not a new venture for UNICEF but rather a creative way to make it easier to implement a Summit goal.

Yes, there is always danger that these companies can abuse the increased credibility gained by their association with UNICEF and WHO. However, we can see they don't — by making sure they implement their promise to end distribution by end-1992, if only the Governments of the countries concerned would actively support the termination. If the formula companies renege on their word, then we have a major capacity to put them in the bad public light they would deserve.

Is UNICEF considering an expansion of its work in central and eastern Europe?

UNICEF is becoming increasingly active in eastern Europe in terms of monitoring the situation of children and in engaging in policy dialogue. We are not involved in major financial supports for children except in extremely limited cases such as in Romania. We are seeing two developments in central Europe which are well described in our new book *Children and the Transition to the Market Economy*. First, the economic transition is proving substantially more difficult than anticipated with much higher levels of unemployment, for example. And, secondly, there is the danger that the baby may be thrown out with the centrally-planned-economy bath water. Eastern Europe had a highly developed system of social services — health, education, child care, social welfare. With the economic collapse, the financial basis of these social services evaporated almost overnight — the desirable set of safety nets was largely swept away along with the outdated economy. The best elements of the socialist system are being lost in an effort to clean up the world's worst elements. Therefore, you have seen the special efforts by UNICEF to alert the Governments of eastern Europe to this danger.

Is there a danger that AIDS will make the meeting of the year 2000 goals for children impossible?

AIDS clearly is the wild card of the 1990s and could make it much more difficult — not impossible but more difficult — to achieve the year 2000 goals in particular areas, especially Sub-Saharan Africa. Recognizing this we are initiating new efforts to bring our experience in social mobilization to bear on the societal behavioural change which is needed to curtail and control the spread of AIDS. Today, the only effective weapon we have against AIDS is to inform and mobilize entire societies to transform habits and social customs to stop the spread of this dreaded disease.

If UNICEF were granted one wish, to be made on behalf of the world's children, what would that wish be?

That the ethic of a 'first call for children' be firmly established and extensively practised in all nations of the world.

How UCI shots saved millions of lives

by Patricia Lone

UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant and World Health Organization Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima will announce on 8 October a new level of accomplishment for the world: The immunization of 80 per cent of the world's children against the six vaccine-preventable diseases of measles, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, polio and tuberculosis.

This public health success saves the lives of six children every minute in the developing world, a total of 3.2 million every year. Millions of mothers and fathers are spared the pain of seeing their infants and young children sicken and die from vaccine-preventable diseases.

To many, reaching such immunization levels seemed an unattainable dream. Even in developed countries, mass public health exercises strain resources and capacity. But here the terrain was the developing world, with precarious infrastructures and isolated, nearly unreachable pockets of population. As recently as 1984, it was estimated that less than 25 per cent (and in many countries only 5 per cent) of children were immunized.

To reach the goal, a global campaign more complex and challenging than any ever mounted in peace or war was needed. For this battle, other guns fell silent: In El Salvador, Beirut and the Sudan, lulls were organized in the fighting so that vaccines could reach the children along tenuous corridors of peace and tranquillity.

And even more daunting was the need to overcome the obstacle posed by the major global economic crisis of the 1980s, most desperate in those very countries whose children were most vulnerable. Ironically, the scarcity of resources actually spurred the immunization miracle. The proven, sharply targeted, low-cost intervention of immunization was teamed with unprecedented global cooperation. This strategy, guided by the world's health and development bodies, generated political commitment at the very highest levels and wide-ranging social mobilization.

The Runaway

"A great many children are called Runaway. This means that the mother has had two children and they have died. Then the third is called Runaway. At its naming a string is tied from its neck to its loins. This is the sign that it is a runaway and that it must not run away as did its two predecessors."

From *The Customs of the Swahili People of Mtoro Bin Mwinyi Bakari and other Swahili Persons*, c. 1890.

Presidents and prime ministers became active advocates. National immunization days were declared. Imams urged vaccination at Friday prayers; priests asked penitents during confession whether their children were immunized.

Slogans and mottos urging immunization sprouted on matchboxes, flour bags, cement bags, buses and postage stamps in developing countries. In Sri Lanka, the message 'Immunize Your Child Today' was inscribed in huge white letters on the green of a cricket pitch.

Technological and logistical problems were conquered; one of the most vital advances was success in establishing and maintaining the cold chain, since vaccines quickly lose potency if exposed to temperatures above 20 degrees Celsius. Kerosene and gas powered refrigerators were used to keep vaccines cool in remote and impoverished areas where there was no electricity; camel trains crossed deserts carrying both the cold chests with the chilled vaccines and the solar panels needed to refrigerate their cargo.

In dramatic numbers, parents brought their children to be vaccinated, making the often arduous trip to health centres three times to complete vaccination regimens. In Turkey, 4.5 million children were immunized in three months. In Burkina Faso, more than one million children received vaccinations in a three-week period, an exercise dubbed 'Operation Commando'.

Challenges remain, particularly in areas where coverage has climbed less rapidly. And even with 80 per cent coverage, nearly two million children will still die annually from the six targeted diseases.

However, by reaching the World Summit goals of eliminating polio and neonatal tetanus and slashing the toll from measles, this devastating loss would fall to 150,000 deaths by the year 2000. Further gains are expected from new vaccines, now being researched and developed, that may eventually include a 'one-shot' dose, and vaccines to stem the terrible tolls from malaria, acute respiratory infections and other diseases.

But despite the work ahead, a corner has been turned and the world will never be the same. A new awareness of health and a demand for the services and the infrastructures that engender and support it were created among people. Those who had never before seen a health team would not easily forget the appearance of one bringing vials that promised to spare their children the suffering and devastation that had sickened and killed so many others. As a Yemeni father explained: "Before, a child fell ill and died and we didn't know why, we were ignorant. Now, the Ministry of Health has told us of the six deadly diseases and we are grateful. Now we know and we will worry about these diseases."

The basis has also been laid for a host of other primary health interventions: information never before known, about the numbers and well-being of children in families and communities, about the basic health of nations, was collected as children were immunized.

The strong contact that immunization established between health services and children can mean more frequent visits and better health for those children over the years.

Patricia Lone is Editor-designate, First Call for Children.

Immunization is worth the cost (UNICEF/4751 C/Sean Sprague).

UN event

Top political leaders, diplomats, public health experts and NGO representatives will join UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant and WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima in commemorating the achievement of Universal Child Immunization at the United Nations in New York on 8 October 1991.

Opening salvo now felt everywhere

The success of the Universal Child Immunization programme has roots as far back as 1796 when Edward Jenner successfully vaccinated a young boy against the dreaded disease of smallpox. That 'shot', the opening salvo in the immunization war, was eventually not only heard but felt around the world. Nearly 200 years afterwards, a major global campaign to eradicate smallpox drew to a successful close.

A new health epoch was dawning in which global immunization could similarly challenge the six other major enemies of child health and welfare for which vaccines existed. In 1974, the World Health Assembly established the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) against measles, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and tuberculosis, and the battle was newly joined.

Nevertheless, nearly 4.5 million children in developing countries died from vaccine-preventable diseases and fewer than 100,000 were saved by immunization in 1977, the year the World Health Assembly challenged the world to extend its efforts and achieve universal child immunization by 1990.

Clearly, as James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, noted, something special was needed to put the world's "most powerful public health technology" to work in a million villages and neighbourhoods.

In 1984, a small group of world health and development experts gathered in Bellagio, Italy, to tackle the unacceptable toll of child deaths. That meeting of representatives of the UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, and the Rockefeller Foundation resulted in the creation of the Task Force for Child Survival, a spark vital to ignite the explosion in EPI.

Within a year, the blaze had finally caught. During the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the UN in 1985, the leaders of many nations and of NGOs joined senior UN officials to affirm their commitment, in what is known as the 'We the People Pledge' to immunizing the world's children by 1990.

Immunization, as an existing, relatively simple and cheap technique, has illustrated an important developmental point as well as saving lives. The goal itself, the specific objective, created its own impetus.

"The focus on the quantitative made all the difference", according to Richard Jolly, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, speaking about the achievement of UCI. "That is the general lesson that can be applied to the other development goals."

Quantitative goals, dynamic national and international leadership and high levels of social motivation propelled UCI's success. They have also helped achieve a 'watershed' victory in India, where between 1986 and 1990 safe water was provided to 157,000 of a targeted 162,000 villages. The world needs this perspective as it strives to achieve the goals for children, set by the 1990 World Summit for Children.

Cholera prompts Jaycees accord

by Frank A. Campbell

An agreement committing Jaycees to help eradicate diarrhoeal diseases in Latin America is another example of fortune being snatched from the jaws of adversity. The current cholera epidemic helped galvanize action leading to the recent signing.

The accord is significant both in terms of its objectives and in view of the partnership it establishes against a scourge challenging the children of the developing South.

The Junior Chamber International, as the Jaycees are properly called, agreed with UNICEF and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to "join efforts through a set of activities aimed at reinforcing national plans of action against the cholera epidemic and the Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases programme in Latin America and the Caribbean Region". PAHO is the regional arm of the WHO.

The coalition engaged in this initiative extends beyond the governments and international bodies foreseen by the agreement. Luis Rivera, UNICEF Deputy Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, noted that Ciba-Geigy, a major private pharmaceutical producer, would soon enter an agreement with the Colombian Government for the production of oral rehydration salts (ORS), an effective, low-cost way to treat the dehydration which often results from diarrhoeal diseases and kills millions of children worldwide.

The Jaycees first made what UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant called "far-reaching promises" to help control diarrhoeal diseases in an agreement signed with UNICEF after Mr. Grant addressed their 1987 World Conference. But according to Mr. Rivera, nothing happened until Juan Esteban Calle, Coordinator for Social Action of the Jaycees Americas Region, approached the UNICEF Regional Office in Bogotá last February. The search which began for a way to transform the declarative 1987 agreement into an instrument for concrete action coincided with the South American cholera outbreak. Said Mr. Rivera: "We thought it was opportune to focus on the problem and on mobilizing society, to link the tragedy to what we wanted to accomplish."

The resulting agreement calls for Jaycees to provide support in three "badly needed lines of action". The first is to assure the availability of ORS. The second is to help to locate funding for mobilization and public-awareness efforts and for subsidizing the cost of the salt. The third is the promotion of ORT, or oral rehydration therapy. Mr. Rivera predicted that one of the most important outcomes of the exercise would be the lessons it was likely to provide in cooperation between the public and private sectors, such as that between Colombia and Ciba-Geigy.

The secret of private-public sector cooperation, he said, was to recognize that each side had interests and to work towards the mutually beneficial satisfaction of those interests. In the case of an organization like the Jaycees, the need might be increased membership or a higher public profile.

Of course, the Jaycees' interest is also humanitarian. The organization's Secretary-General W. Daniel Lamey told *First Call for Children*: "Junior Chambers in many cities and countries throughout the Americans are already actively supporting UNICEF programmes and conducting independent projects to improve public health and safeguard the lives of children.

"This agreement will serve to help us focus our efforts throughout the region on one of the most serious health hazards facing children in Latin America and the Caribbean today."

Frank A. Campbell is Interim Editor, First Call for Children.

ORS is a first defence against cholera (UNICEF/4460/ Antonio Martínez).

Worldwide action after Summit

from page 1

Like most Governments, Mrs. Aquino's hopes to have the entire plan ready by year-end to meet the deadline. The Maldives, an island nation with fewer than a quarter million people but one of the firmest supporters of the Summit goals, held a major national conference to hammer out its plan. In Uganda, the planning mechanism has included technical commissions and senior Cabinet ministers.

Governments have shown their commitment by reviewing their budgets and international aid programmes to fund the children's programmes mandated by the Summit.

Pakistan's Health, Special Education and Social Welfare Minister, Syed Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi, told last April's meeting of the UNICEF Executive Board: "Despite its financial constraints, the Government of Pakistan is determined to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action to the best of its ability."

The Soviet delegation to the Board session said the new State policy on women, children and the family proposed after the Summit would cost over 40 billion roubles (US$67 billion) during this decade.

Behind this new approach to planning and action for child welfare is a strong current taking the issue of the child from the periphery of national and international concerns to the top of political agendas.

In Mexico, Governor Beatriz Paredes of Tlaxcala State has tied implementation of the goals to the end of her term, to that of President Carlos Salinas and to the end of the decade. Most Mexican states are expected to follow suit. Mexico City is developing a pilot project for implementing the Summit goals.

In Venezuela, President Carlos Andrés Pérez underlined the importance of Summit goals by establishing a National Commission comprising Cabinet members, academics, the private sector, NGOs and other sectors to monitor the implementation process.

Mozambique's President Joaquin Chissano now has a minister reporting directly to him on projects for children in difficult circumstances, street children, the handicapped and the elderly.

Morocco's King Hassan personally heads the newly created Supreme Council for Youth. And in India, at least two major political parties found it necessary to make explicit references to child-related issues in the manifestos on which they based their campaigns in the recent general elections.

In the realm of international discourse, wherever world leaders meet these days, children and the Summit goals are likely to be discussed. Such was the case when Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden visited his Japanese counterpart Toshiki Kaifu in March.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit in the Maldives last November decided to prepare a regional plan of action and act on one of the more troubling issues facing children in Asia and elsewhere — the disproportionate social, economic and psychological burden placed upon the girl child.

The World Summit was a central theme at the Organization of African Unity Summit held in Abuja, Nigeria, in June. The African leaders went beyond the already unusually tight monitoring provisions established by the World Summit by mandating their own secretariat to monitor the implementation as well. They also called for the convening in 1992 of an international donors conference on assistance to African children. And African leaders have promoted action on Summit goals in international fora such as the Commonwealth, the Francophonie, the Non-Aligned Movement.

In the Declaration of Guadalajara, Iberoamerican heads of State and Government committed themselves to "carry out the actions necessary for fulfilling the goals established at the World Summit for Children".

A further measure of international cooperation in the implementation process is the idea being developed of a Summit for the collective launching of national plans of actions of Central American countries.

And Latin American First Ladies have given increasing support to the implementation of Summit goals. A meeting organized in May by Colombia's First Lady called, among other things, for a Summit of the First Ladies of the American Hemisphere.

Renewed advocacy and action on behalf of children has not been limited to the South. Canada, in common with other industrialized countries, has been engaged in preparing a plan of action.

In the U.S., more than two dozen chief executives of "Fortune 500" companies have so far joined the Corporate Alliance for Child Survival formed to raise funds in a 'corporate response' to the Summit.

Meanwhile, the way in which Summit implementation has survived political winds sweeping governments from office gives hope for the future. The Malian example, dealt with in Mr. Grant's interview, is perhaps the most dramatic. But in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, the situation following changes in the régimes tells a story of enduring national commitment rather than merely partisan support for the cause of children.

Luis Rivera, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for Latin America, said calling the post-Summit plans 'national' was neither accidental nor of mere passing importance. "These are not UNICEF plans" he said, "and they are not just governmental plans. If they were, they would suffer from political fragility." Hence, wide participation in the planning and monitoring process, as seen in the composition of Venezuela's national commission, is an encouraging development.

Despite this broad support, backed by an infrastructure of national and international political strength and reinforced by planning and action, the task is not over. The title "Promises to Keep", taken from another Frost poem and given to Mr. Grant's report to the UNICEF Executive Board meeting in April, caught the attention of Dr. Ekram Hossain, leader of the Bangladesh delegation. Dr. Hossain said that while the title was appropriate, "the experiences of the 1980s do indicate that we may have miles to go before the promises are transformed into reality".

Dr. Hossain is obviously correct. Hopefully, however, Governments, having taken a new path — one of determined follow-up action — will find, as did Frost when he dared to walk "the road not taken", that "this has made all the difference".

Aid to Afghanis crosses borders

After war, clinic offers hope and normalcy (UNICEF/4294/Nick Danziger).

by Joyce Greene

War doesn't play favourites with civilians and neither should efforts to aid the victims.

"In Afghanistan, medical and other personnel in both rural and urban areas are continuously crossing the fighting lines," said Nassar Moeini, a UNICEF project officer working in Mazar, near Kholm, "to deliver child survival services to Afghan children, wherever they are." He cited immunization, control of diarrhoeal diseases, improved sanitation and water supply, emergency relief, supplementary feeding, and maternal and child health as just some of the services brought to children and mothers.

In the strife-torn towns of Herat in western Afghanistan, controlled by the Government, and in the northern mojahedin-controlled town of Kholm, UNICEF has helped community leaders on both sides of the conflict to stop children dying of preventable diseases and to bring health care to mothers.

The success story in the midst of war began in October 1990, when a clinic was set up in the western city of Herat at a cost of just US$1,555.

In Herat, religious and community leaders formed a group to organize the project, and local people worked around the clock to open the clinic only two weeks after they took possession of a badly damaged, bombed-out building.

For many refugees it was the first real access to health services since they began returning to Afghanistan last year. Some 40,000 people have managed to carve homes from the rubble in the destroyed Shari Kuna section of Herat.

"This clinic is a testament to the poor and displaced people who live in the area and who worked so hard on a self-help basis to get the project operational," said Rudy Rodrigues, a UNICEF project officer in Herat.

He said response to the clinic, which caters to women and children, was overwhelming. In its first month, medical staff saw almost 2,000 women and children. In February alone more than 1,600 children were immunized.

Because of security constraints, the clinic opens only from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. There is no public transport to the area, and staff have to be driven to and from the clinic each day.

Staff members see about 200 women and children daily, and the clinic has now begun to attract patients from the rural areas around Herat.

In the first 30 days of operation, health workers saw 666 moderately malnourished children, giving them wheat soya-blend, high protein biscuits and vitamin A capsules. Some children with severe malnutrition were referred to a hospital. Other diseases treated include gastro-enteritis, bronchitis and conjunctivitis.

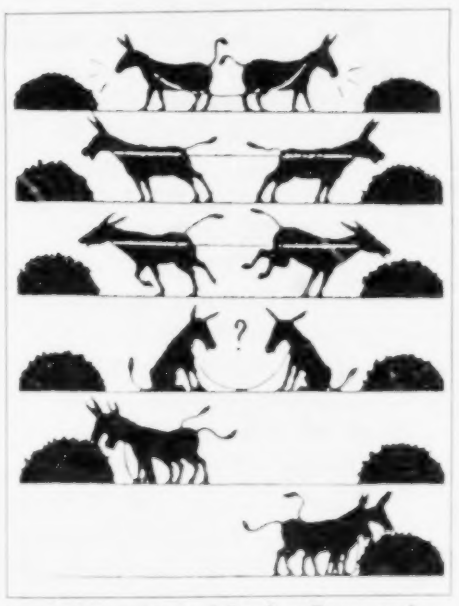
"Besides the practical medical benefits that this project brings to the community, it also conveys a tremendous psychological effect," Mr. Rodrigues said. "It has established hope, it generates a feeling among the poor, the displaced and the most vulnerable that their lives are at last returning to 'normal', and that there is a future," he added.

Over 500 kilometers from Herat, the town of Kholm, east of Mazar in northern Afghanistan, is still experiencing reverberations from severe fighting during the war. The old town, now just a pile of rubble, has been abandoned and the majority of Kholm's 60,000 inhabitants live in areas controlled by four mojahedin groups.

The largest of these groups, Jamiat Islami, runs a clinic which also provides services to the other mojahedin groups. When mojahedin leaders told UNICEF officials about the increasing number of child deaths from preventable diseases, UNICEF helped the community set up an immunization unit to serve children visiting the Jamiat clinic.

Once again, the time from decision to action was short. By December 1990, in just one month, the immunization unit had been set up; since then almost 4,000 children have been vaccinated. The community provides everything except the vaccines, which come from UNICEF, making the project sustainable.

Mr. Moeini said the success of the unit would set an example that he hoped would be followed in other mojahedin-controlled areas.



Artwork courtesy of Quaker Peace and Service.

Empowering children to change the world

by Susan Fountain

In Switzerland, a class of nine-year-olds uses maps to show the countries of origin of their food, their toys and their clothing. They are learning about their country's dependence on other countries.

Thirteen-year-olds in Britain spend an hour making paper bags, only to find that their 'wages' barely cover basic food, clothing and shelter needs, with none left over for 'extras' such as medicine or education. The simulation helps them understand the life of the urban poor in a developing country.

In the United States, five-year-olds debate how to put a series of pictures about a conflict into sequence. They are exploring solutions to the conflict, and what outcome those might have.

What do these three classes have in common? They are all taking part in Education for Development programmes. Education for Development, as promoted by UNICEF through the National Committees, is not a new subject, but rather a way of bringing a global perspective to both traditional subjects and current local and international issues. This global perspective has three important dimensions.

Space: No matter where we live, we are all affected by events in other places. Environmental issues make this clear — acid rain and deforestation have effects that cross national boundaries. They are problems which can only be solved through international cooperation.

Time: Events are connected across time as well as space. Present world conditions exist for historical reasons, and decisions taken today will affect future generations. A war, for example, may arise out of conflicts that are centuries old, and its social, economic, political and environmental effects may persist for generations.

Holistic ways of seeing: Every individual, event or issue is made up of many interrelated aspects; focusing on one aspect only fails to give a 'whole' picture of reality. An understanding of complex issues, such as urban poverty, cannot be achieved by examining only economic policies; prejudice and inequality, social and political conflict, inappropriate technology and environmental degradation may also be involved.

Education for Development conveys this global perspective both through **what** is learned (content) and **how** it is learned (learning strategies).

The content of Education for Development centres on key global concepts, which include:

Interdependence: The world as an interconnected system in which events and trends affect all parts of the planet; the need for cooperative approaches to global issues.

Images and Perceptions: How we look at ourselves and others, challenging stereotypes, an understanding that one's world view is not universally shared.

Conflict/Conflict Resolution: Peace and conflict, the awareness of alternatives in resolving conflicts.

Social Justice: The behaviours, attitudes and social structures which either promote or prevent one's full participation in society.

The Future: How change occurs, different types of change, and empowering ourselves to create a desirable future.

A focus on these themes is one of the hallmarks of Education for Development, distinguishing it from "development education", which has tended to look primarily at developing countries and their problems. Such an approach has sometimes reinforced 'Third World' stereotypes, rather than undone them. The concepts central to Education for Development are relevant to situations in both developing and industrialized countries, helping learners see the links between local and global issues.

Once children understand those links, what can they do about them?

Some five-year-olds collect used paper, glass and aluminum in their school for delivery to the local recycling centre. Primary school children write letters to book publishers objecting to gender and ethnic stereotyping they have found in library books. Secondary school students borrow a wheelchair and spend a day pushing a classmate as they visit community facilities; later they write to city authorities suggesting improved access for the handicapped. All of these children are involved in action projects, an essential phase of the process of Education for Development.

Learning strategies in Education for Development thus involve more than knowing about global issues. A three-step cycle is involved, beginning with an **exploring** phase, in which information is gathered and analysed. This is followed by a **responding** phase, in which learners develop a personal response to the issue, an awareness of its human dimension and a sense of empathy and commitment. **Taking action** is a natural outcome of the feeling of personal involvement.

Learners explore what realistic courses of action might be open to them, choose one and carry it out, as described in the preceding paragraph.

Education for Development is a long-term process which looks at the whole child, aiming to promote the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to empower students to take an active and responsible role in an increasingly diverse and interdependent world.

Susan Fountain is a writer and consultant based in New York.

Environment: Women and children first

Environmental degradation has its greatest impact on the poor, and women and children make up many of the world's poorest. Women are also effective managers of our most basic resources. They are successful campaigners and leaders in environmental protection. Yet they are the last to be consulted in policy-making on environment and development.

This was one of the issues discussed at a symposium, 'Women and Children First', held on 27-30 May in Geneva, sponsored by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), UNICEF, UNFPA, the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the Government of Denmark.

With only 12 months to go before UNCED convenes in June 1992 in Brazil, the Symposium reflected a growing worldwide movement to put gender on the agenda and to give women their rightful say in deciding the world's fate. The Brazil Conference is expected to draw official delegations from 160 nations, and an additional 20,000 citizen activists for a parallel People's Congress. Together they will comprise the largest forum ever held to deal with environment and development. Their decisions will affect life on earth into the 21st century.

At the Women and Children First Symposium, 86 experts and resource people from grassroots organizations, international NGOs, UN agencies and Governments engaged in debates and presented papers on the impact of environmental degradation on the health and well-being of women and children. Participants voiced their wide-spread dissatisfaction about the exclusion of these issues from the UNCED agenda and the under-representation of women in delegations at the Preparatory Committee Meetings and other fora.

"There were all these meetings and nothing for women", said Filomena Steady, UNCED Special Advisor on Women and organizer of the Symposium. The Symposium, she said, came out of the "felt need" to examine women and children as a significant cross-sectoral topic within UNCED.

The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm placed environment on the world agenda. UNCED, taking place on the 20th anniversary of that Conference, will attempt to ensure the issue of environment becomes central to policy in a manner consistent with the concept of sustainable development promoted by the 1987 Brundtland Report.

UN agencies and NGOs concerned with women's and children's issues feel that the UNCED agenda is too heavily weighted towards the scientific, technological and legal aspects of the environment. While they acknowledge the importance of macro-ecological issues such as global warming, participants at the Geneva Symposium felt that human and social development issues needed to be accorded a much higher priority. Yin Yin Nwe, a UNICEF representative to the Symposium, declared: "People in the South, especially women, are busy with the burdens of everyday survival. They don't have the luxury of worrying about a depleted environment until they have fed their families." Participants also urged the UNCED Conference to address the ecological problems caused by consumption patterns of the affluent North as well as those caused by survival behaviour of the poorer countries.

Women — fetchers of water, collectors of wood — need a stronger role in managing the environment (*Women and the World Economic Crisis*, Jeanne Vickers, ZED Books).

Speakers emphasized the linkage between protection of the physical environment and protection of the most vulnerable elements of the human environment. Ecological destruction, family and community access to resources, consumption patterns and sustainable development are all interconnected.

The Symposium made strong recommendations to the UNCED Secretariat, Governments and NGOs. They include:

— Focusing on resource users — human beings — as well as resources and recognizing the role of women as managers as well as victims.

— Redefining "environment" to include community and family survival.

— Developing strategies to involve local communities, focusing on preventive rather than curative solutions.

For documents on the Symposium contact: UNCED, 160 Route de Florissant, PO Box 80, CH-1231 Conches, Switzerland.

Those who are the victims

In much of the developing world, women are water suppliers and water managers. They collect water for the household, control its use and oversee sanitary arrangements. But the planning and technology for water management have been in the hands of men. When the environment has been degraded, women and children are victims of polluted water sources. They face water-borne diseases, inadequate water supply and poor sanitation. Unsafe water supplies cause nearly 80 per cent of all diseases affecting women and children in many developing countries.

In the forest, women are resource managers, collecting fuel wood, food, animal fodder, medicinal plants. As victims of forest destruction, they must walk longer distances for wood, leaving them less time for food preparation, child care and schooling. This is especially problematic for girls who must help their mothers. It also means less fuel for other income-generating activities, such as making pottery or smoking fish. And women are well known as protectors of the forest, working actively to replant trees in projects like the Chipko Movement in India or the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya. Rural women in Malaysia have been protesting the uncontrolled commercial logging that is destroying their way of life.

A large proportion of farmers and farmworkers are women and children who plant, cultivate, harvest and market crops which make the difference between starvation and survival. In Africa, women grow 70 per cent of the food and run farms under most difficult conditions, while men migrate to seek work. Yet, in many countries, women cannot own land or obtain credit or extension services.

It is not often recognized that women could be key agents in the balance between population and resources. Raising their status through education, income-generating activities and access to family planning are essential means to this end. Equally important is changing the attitudes of men in many societies.

Sources: E & D File 1992, published by NGLS, May 1991, No. 14; *Cross Currents*, an NGO newspaper for UNCED. Documents from the symposium, Women and Children First.

Meetings to raise women's concerns

The Global Assembly of Women and the Environment: Partners for Life will take place in Miami, Florida, 4-8 November, sponsored by the Senior Women's Advisory Group on Sustainable Development (SWAGSD) of UNEP and organized by WorldWIDE Network, an international women's group.

Invited participants will present 250 success stories of women around the world in development and environmental leadership. Selected projects will come primarily from grassroots sectors to serve as repeatable models.

For more information contact: WorldWIDE Network, 1331 H. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA. Tel.: (202)347-1514; fax: (202)347-1524.

The World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet will be held in Miami, Florida, 8-12 November 1991, organized by the Women's International Policy Action Committee on Environment and Development (IPAC), an international group of 45 women activists. The Congress will feature tribunals with a panel of distinguished women jurists, who will hear dramatic testimony from women in every region of the world presenting evidence of their battle against ecological and economic devastation. The stories will serve as a basis for workshops and recommendations for action. The Congress is open to all, and organizers expect 1,000 women to attend, mostly from developing countries.

For more information, contact: IPAC, 845 Third Avenue, 15th floor, New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A., Tel.: (212)759-7982; fax: (212)759-8647.

Learning Together/Working Together: A South-North Dialogue, Washington, D.C., 20-24 November 1991. Organized by the Association for Women in Development (AWID), this meeting will bring together activists, policy makers and academics interested in women in development to discuss issues of work, education, health, family, political participation, institutional development and environment. The aim if the forum is to create effective strategies for change in areas of concern shared by women worldwide.

For more information, contact: The Conference Office, 261 College Court, KSU, Manhattan, Kansas 66506, U.S.A., Tel.: (913)532-5575; fax: (913)532-5637.

Colombo slums improve

by Vijita Fernando

Minutes from what is called the 'plush oval' — an elegant venue of international cricket events in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo — lives 27-year-old Janet, in a vastly different setting. With her child and husband, Janet is one of the 50,000 families living among rows of shanties, pot-holed streets and minimal sanitation facilities.

Janet is also one of 75 women chosen by the Centre For Development Cooperation (CFDC) to participate in its new health education training programme. A support centre for local NGOs, CFDC in 1990 decided to step in and help slum women improve their lives and those of their families. "It was obvious we had to go through the women", says Yasanthi Soysa, Executive Director of CFDC. Family health is closer to their hearts, and they are the easiest to reach."

The women selected for the programme were approved by the community, had some education and were eager to improve their lives. Through lectures at the Health Education Bureau of the Ministry of Health and community workshops, they were trained in nutrition, basic hygiene, sanitation and family planning.

"Earlier", recalls Janet, "I had no time for such niceties as washing my hands before eating or boiling drinking water." Now she teaches what she has learned to 10 families in her neighbourhood.

For the first time the women are seeing the connection between the lack of toilets and worm infestation, between unboiled water and diarrhoea. Local community workers help conduct the training and solicit vegetables and fish from local merchants for distribution to residents.

The CFDC programme is ambitious, given the dimensions of the problems: nearly 50 per cent of Colombo's population live in slums. Most have no toilets or proper drainage. Often there is only one drinking water tap for 500 households, and few people boil their water before drinking.

For the next six months, the CFDC programme will continue to focus on health, sanitation and nutrition, with the specific goal of preventing the respiratory tract infections that plague 90 per cent of slum children under ten.

"Later we will tackle public health problems like malaria, sexually-transmitted diseases, leprosy and heart diseases", says Ms. Soysa. Ultimately the solution is to replace the shanties with planned housing.

Vijita Fernando, who writes for Inter Press Service, is based in Colombo.

NGOs push Convention and Summit goals

It has been one year since 71 heads of Government and State met at the World Summit for Children. What have NGOs been doing to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action? In the words of Paul McCleary, President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, NGOs are seeking ways to meet the Summit goals.

"NGOs have been assessing the relevance to their work of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children", said Mr. McCleary, in a statement to the UNICEF Executive Board last April. "That reflection has led most of us to realize that we cannot go on conducting business as usual. History has been altered by both the Summit and the Convention, two undeniable and irreversible global events in which we have participated. The Summit has become a magnet around which all else is organized."

Mr. McCleary added, "Just as nations are developing plans of action, many NGOs are developing their own."

CCF: Ten Steps to 2000

Advocating one step a year, the plan of action developed by the Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is called Ten Steps to 2000. Consisting of the seven Summit goals plus three added by the Fund itself, the plan was sent to each of the 27 CCF national offices for review and discussion so that each national office could develop its own plan for implementation.

The Ten Steps guarantee to every one of 1,500,000 children enrolled in CCF programmes immunization, access to safe water, primary health care, adequate nutrition, appropriate vocational training and special attention to children in especially difficult circumstances. In addition, CCF pledges to support the role of the family as primary care-giver and protector of the child, to support appropriate environmental development, and to protect the rights of the child as they apply to labour, education and religion.

WVRD: "Softening of Climate"

The World Summit has softened the climate in the different countries where World Vision Relief and Development (WVRD) works and where until now the development of the child had been hampered by firmly rooted cultural practices.

"There is a big change in atmosphere", said WVRD Programme Officer, Joe Muwonge. "They are taking more seriously the rights of the child. The level of awareness and dialogue between governments and NGOs has grown."

Muwonge, who works mostly in Africa, said that he saw a much higher quality of data collection and greater sharing of information between government ministries and NGOs. Prior to the Summit, he said, the sector ministers would take a census, make a report and leave it up to those who were interested to come and ask for a copy. In Uganda, he pointed to a significant change on the part of the Government when it brought in NGOs to its programme supporting AIDS orphans. He said this was the first instance of this kind of cooperation there.

DCI: More Work Needed

Working to implement the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, the Geneva-based Defence for Children International (DCI) has distributed Summit statements by the heads of Government who attended the Summit, in the countries where DCI has a branch. This is part of an effort to urge national NGOs to ask appropriate ministries precisely what they are doing to draw up plans of action and how they are going to implement them.

As a child rights organization, however, the principal mission of DCI is the ratification and implementation of the Convention. Trevor Davies, DCI Secretary-General, feels that the Summit was too heavily weighted towards infant survival and that more attention needs to be paid to human rights issues and children in especially difficult circumstances.

"Once they have survived the first five years", he asks, "how are they going to survive the next 20? We need new infrastructures — relating to work, education, and especially human rights — to support that future population."

To further the work of the Convention, DCI is assisting countries, such as Bulgaria and Uganda, which have expressed an interest in making legislative or constitutional changes to include provisions for children, by supplying them with copies of legislation passed in other countries such as Brazil. The NGO has also created a computerized documentation centre containing more than 6,000 documents on children's rights and is working on the development of an international thesaurus to set standards and define children's rights expressions in different cultures and under different legal systems.

The family must be preserved (UNICEF/4715 Z/Francene Keery).

US urged to ratify

InterAction: For InterAction, a Washington D.C.-based NGO, the US refusal to join more than 90 countries that have signed the Convention was a major disappointment. "We had such high hopes leading up to the Summit", said Aaron Chassey of InterAction, "and then President Bush didn't sign the Convention, didn't even mention it at the Summit."

This is of special concern to InterAction, an umbrella organization for 137 international NGOs working in development and relief. "Our organizations don't look good pushing for implementation to the Convention in developing countries when our own Government won't support it", said Chassey.

Presently the NGO is working behind the scenes on Capitol Hill, trying to get a non-binding resolution to urge the President to sign the Convention.

SCF - US: On the more public front, Save the Children Federation, U.S., is making every effort to wage an effective educational campaign.

The NGO has circulated a resolution seeking support from non-profit and advocacy groups and from governors and state legislatures.

If you are an international or national NGO, please share with our readers how the Summit has affected your work. What are you doing to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action and the Convention on the Rights of the Child? What has been the impact of the Summit on your work with national Governments?

Please send information to, or call:

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RESOURCES

UNICEF Publications
The following publications are available for sale from
UNICEF, RPPL, H-12G
3 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA

Children and the Transition to the Market Economy: Safety Nets and Social Policies in Central and Eastern Europe, edited by Giovanni Andrea Cornia and Sandor Sipos. English. Softcover US$17.00. Also available from UN bookstores in New York and Geneva, and from Wildwood Distribution Services, Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hants., GUll 3 HR, U.K. in hardcover £29.50.

A Voice for Children: Speaking as their Ombudsman, by Malfrid Grude Flekkoy. English. Jessica Kingsley Publishers Ltd., 118 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, U.K. Hardcover £19.95. Softcover £9.95/US$23.95.

Protecting Working Children, edited by William E. Myers. English: French and Spanish will follow. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, U.K. Hardcover £29.95/ US$49.95, softcover £10.95/ US$19.95.

The following publications are available in English from the International Child Development Centre, Spedale degli Innocenti, Piazza SS. Annunziata 12, 50122 Florence, Italy:

Children of the Runaway Cities: the Impact of Urban Poverty on Philippines, by Maggie Black. Innocenti Studies series on urban children in difficult circumstances. Booklet. US$6.00.

Brazil: The Fight for Childhood in the City, by Anthony Swift. Innocenti Studies series on urban children in difficult circumstances. Booklet. US$6.00.

Working for the Rights of Children, by Malfrid Grude Flekkoy. 1990. Innocenti Essay. US$4.00

Child Advocacy in the United States - The Work of the Children's Defense Fund, by James D. Weill. 1990. Innocenti Essay. US$4.00.

Children in Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe and a First Look at Alternative Approaches, by James Himes, Susi Kessler and Cassie Landers. 1991. Innocenti Essay. US$4.00.

Innocenti Occasional Papers: Economic Decline and Child Survival: the Plight of Latin America in the Eighties, by Teresa Albanez, Eduardo Bustelo, Giovanni Andrea Cornia and Eva Jespersen. 1989. US$6.00

Child Poverty and Deprivation in Industrialized Countries: Recent Trends and Policy Options, by Giovanni Andrea Cornia. 1990. US$6.00

Education, Skills and Development in the Structural Transformation of Africa, by Sanjaya Lall. 1990. US$6.00

Other Publications
Human Development Report 1991 by the UN Development Programme. English. Hardcover US$29.95, softcover US$15.95, from Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513, USA. Prices of other language versions differ. For Arabic, contact Al-Ahram Publishing, Al-Ahram Building, Sahria El-Galaa, Cairo 92544, Egypt. French: Economica, 49 rue Hericart, 75015 Paris, France. Spanish: Mr. S. Pombo, Tercer Mundo Editores, Calle 69 No. 6046, Bogota, Colombia.

The World's Women, 1970-1990. Trends and statistics. English: French and Spanish will follow. UN Publications Sales Section, New York. US$19.95.

Women and the World Economic Crisis, prepared by Jeanne Vickers. English. First of seven in a series on Women and World Development. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, U.K. Hardcover £29.95/ US$49.95, Softcover £9.95/ US$15.95. Plus postage £1.25/ US$2.00 per order.

Near Miracle in Bangladesh. Review of successful immunization programme.
The University Press Ltd., Dhaka. US$6.40. ISBN 984 05 1151 3. English.

UNICEF Videos
A number of audiovisual materials are also available on loan from UNICEF offices and National Committees. (Check with your local office for titles.)

Breastfeeding: A Global Priority — 30 minutes. Examples from Africa, Asia and Latin America show how volunteer groups, companies and governments can act together to encourage and support mothers to breastfeed. English, French, Spanish.

Beneath the Penetrating Gaze — 15 minutes. In July 1990 the major religions' leaders met at a World Conference on Religion and Peace and focused on the plight of children everywhere. English, French, Spanish.

Education for Peace — 10 minutes. Social rehabilitation activities for Lebanese youth and children aim to rebuild a peaceful society. English and French.

Update Liberia — 5 minutes, on the needs of Liberian children in the wake of civil war. English.

Beyond the Wall — 25 minutes. Primary health care and education programmes are reaching out to children in remote areas beyond the Great Wall of China. English, Japanese.

A Mural for the Children: The World Summit Mural Project — 8 and a half minutes. Children cooperate to create a mural for the Summit. English.

What is UNICEF — 15 minutes. Produced by the UK Committee for UNICEF for use with primary school children. English.

Resources *is compiled by Rhonwen Searle, Senior Information Assistant.*

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